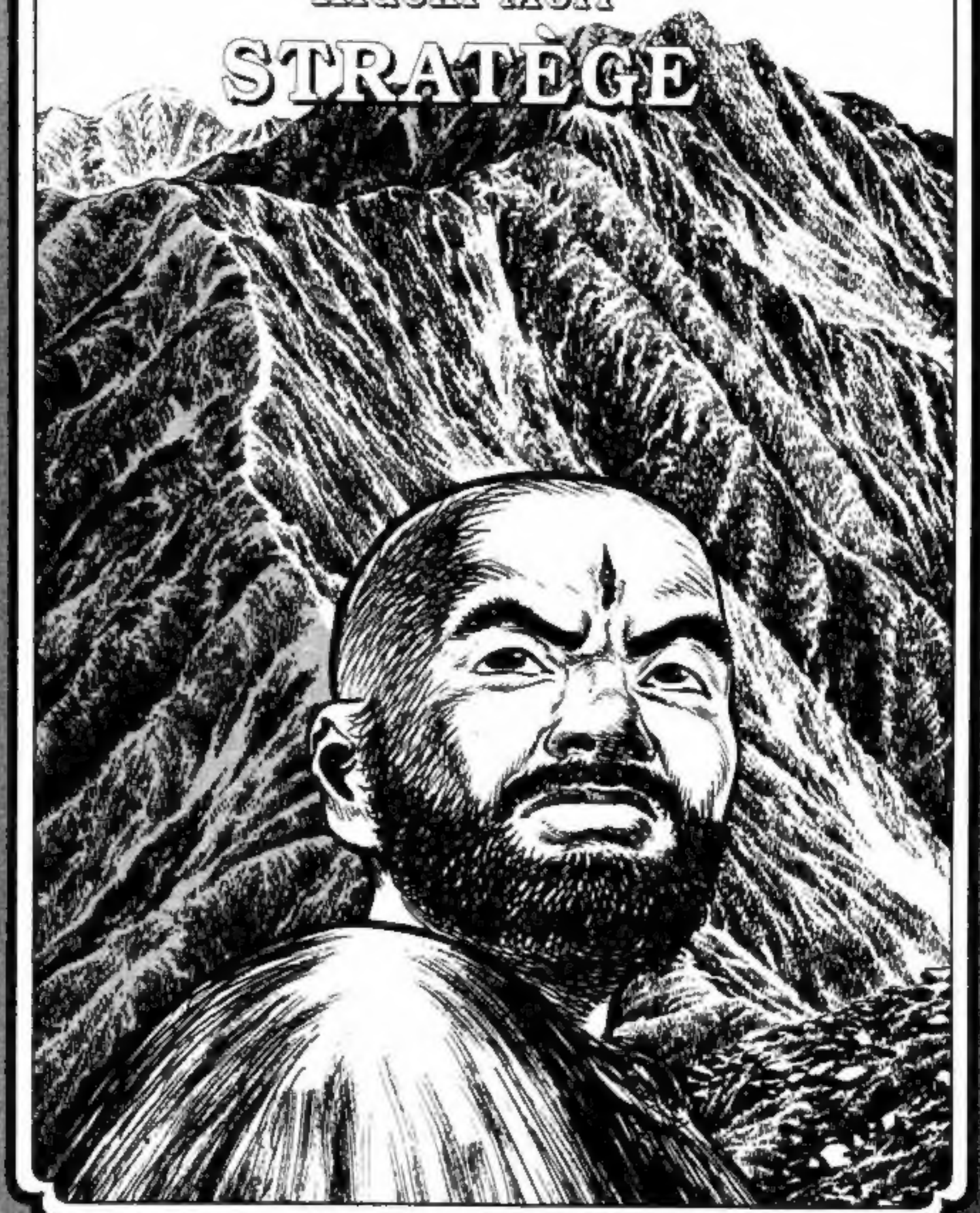
Hideki Mori

STRATÈGE



CHAPTER 01
A REUNION

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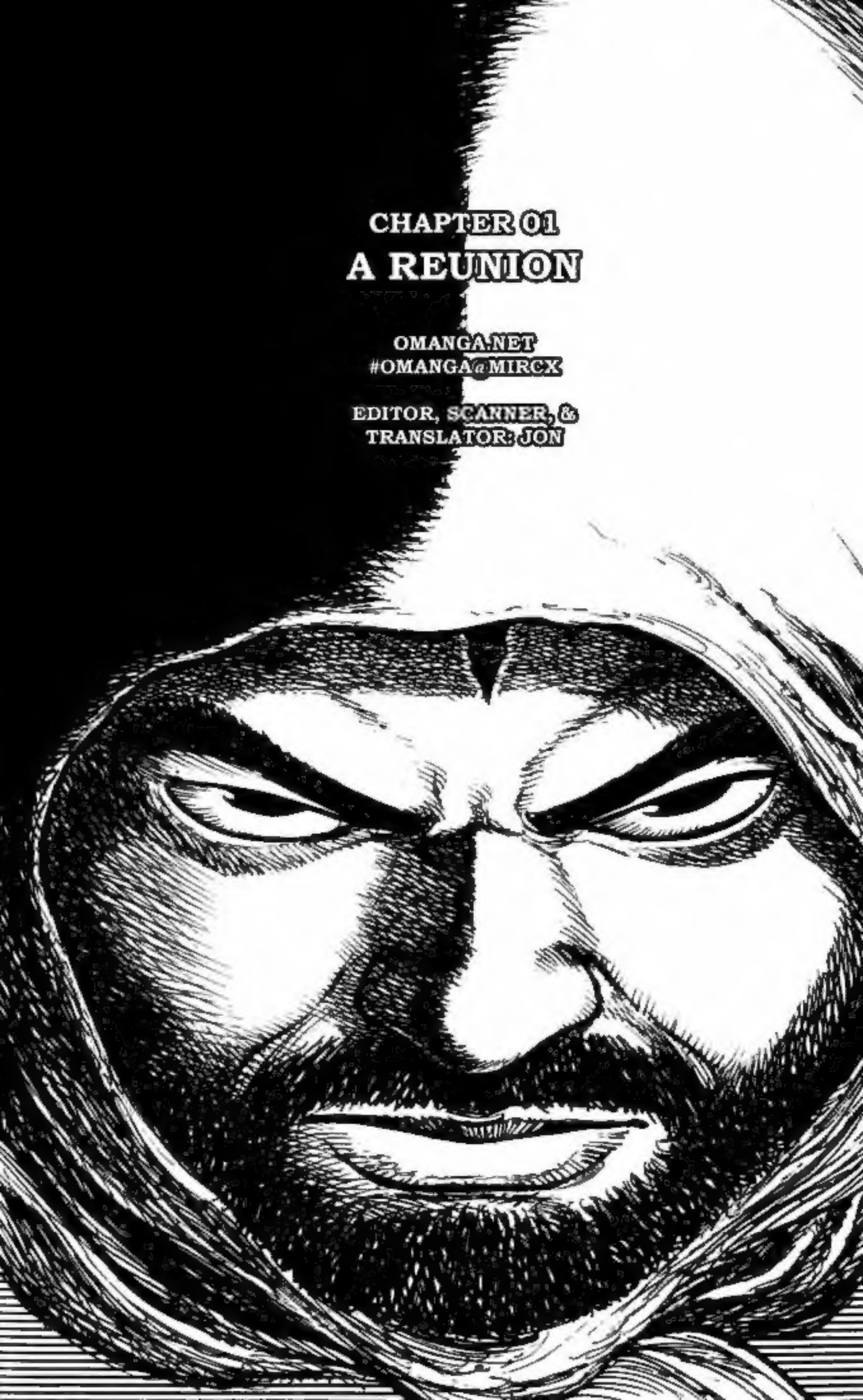
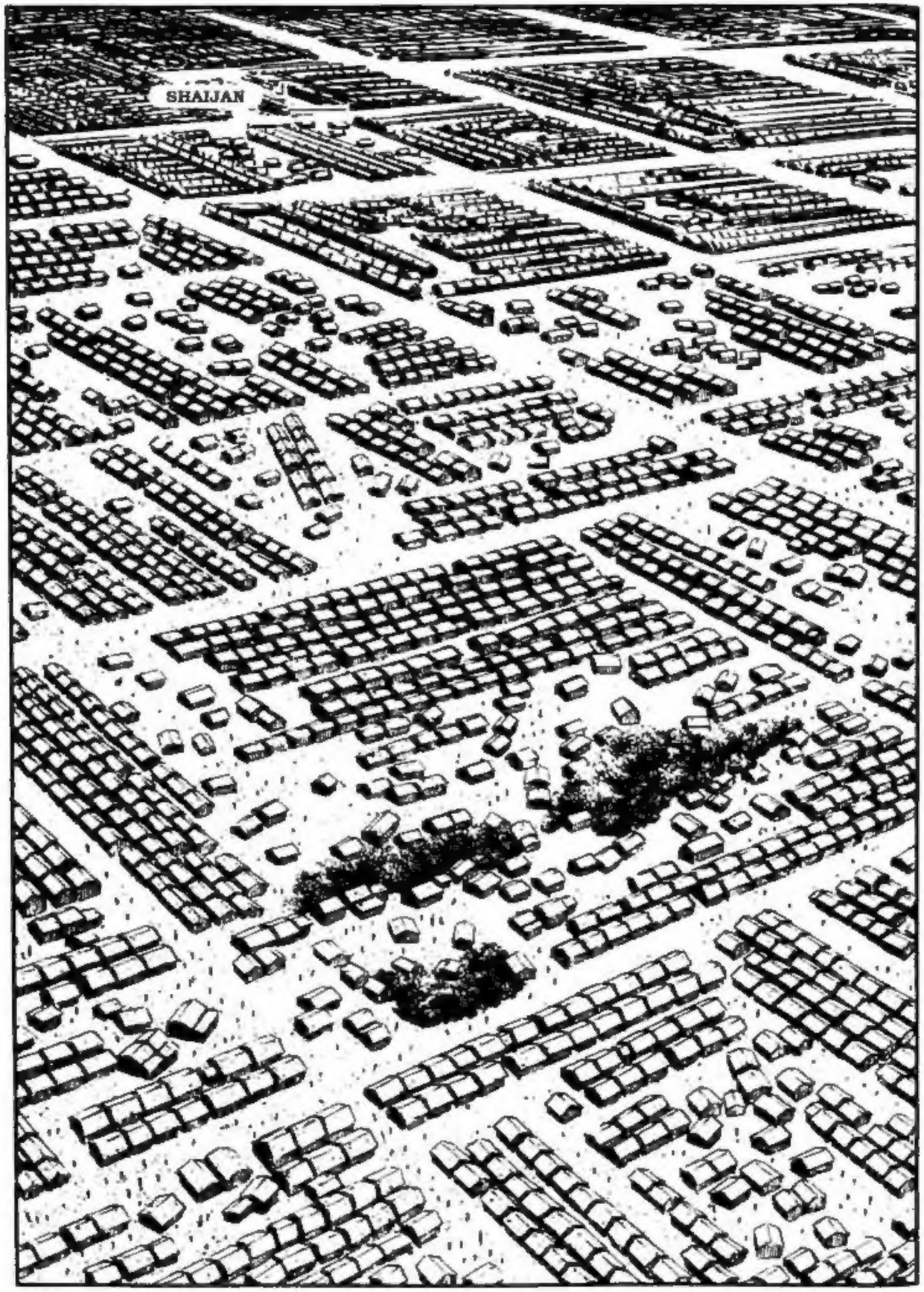
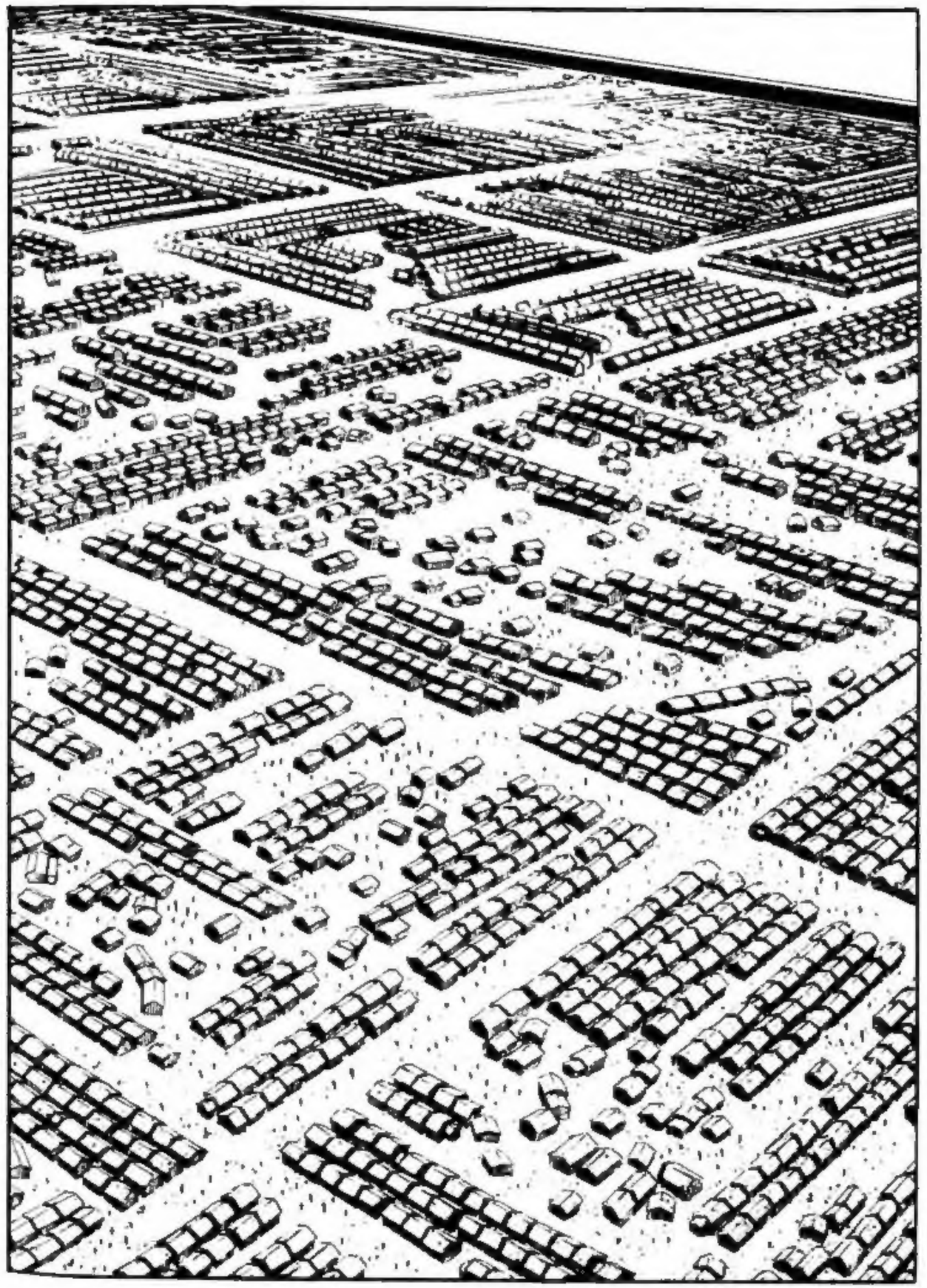
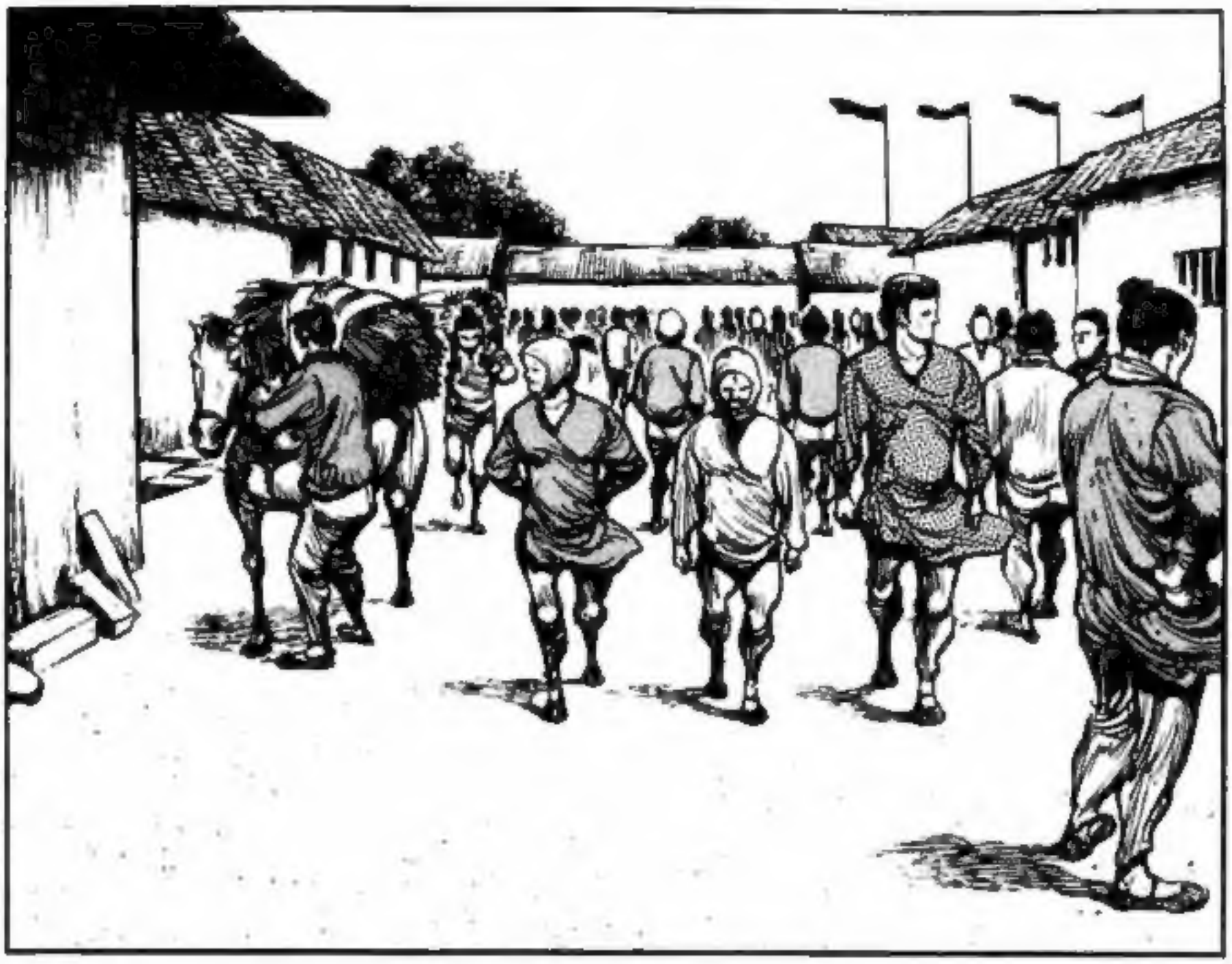
EDITOR, SCANNER, &
TRANSLATOR: JON

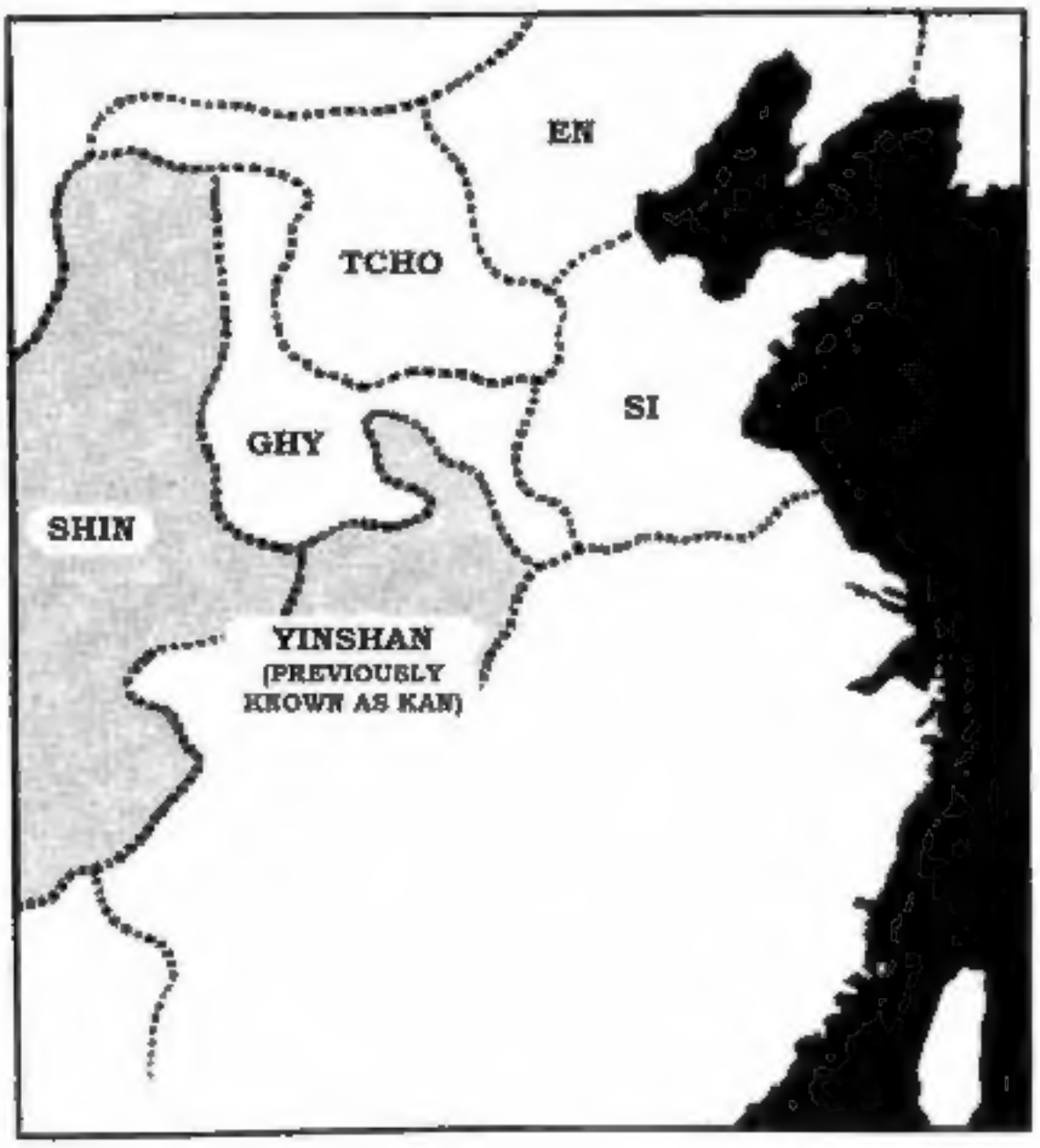



SHAIJAN





IT'S TERRIBLE
...
SEI, THE CAPITAL OF TCHO, WAS QUITE BIG. BUT HERE, IN SHAIJAN, THE CAPITAL OF SHIN, EVERY-THING'S HUGE!


EN
TCHO
SI
GHY
SHIN
YINSHAN
(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS KAN)

THE KINGDOM OF SHIN WAS IN LACK OF EDUCATED MEN, SO THEY HAD GATHERED PEOPLE FROM ABROAD (FROM FEUDAL STATES), WHICH HAD A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY

THE KING WOULD USE ALL MEANS POSSIBLE TO SUBJECT THE PEOPLE TO HIS LAWS, AND TO ENRICH HIS COUNTRY AND REINFORCE HIS ARMY

THIS WAS THE REASON BEHIND SHIN'S QUICK DEVELOPMENT

KAKURI, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

DON'T TELL ME THAT WE ARE GOING TO INFILTRATE THE PALACE AND ASSASSINATE THE KING

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO, BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE

WE'RE GOING BACK TO TCHO

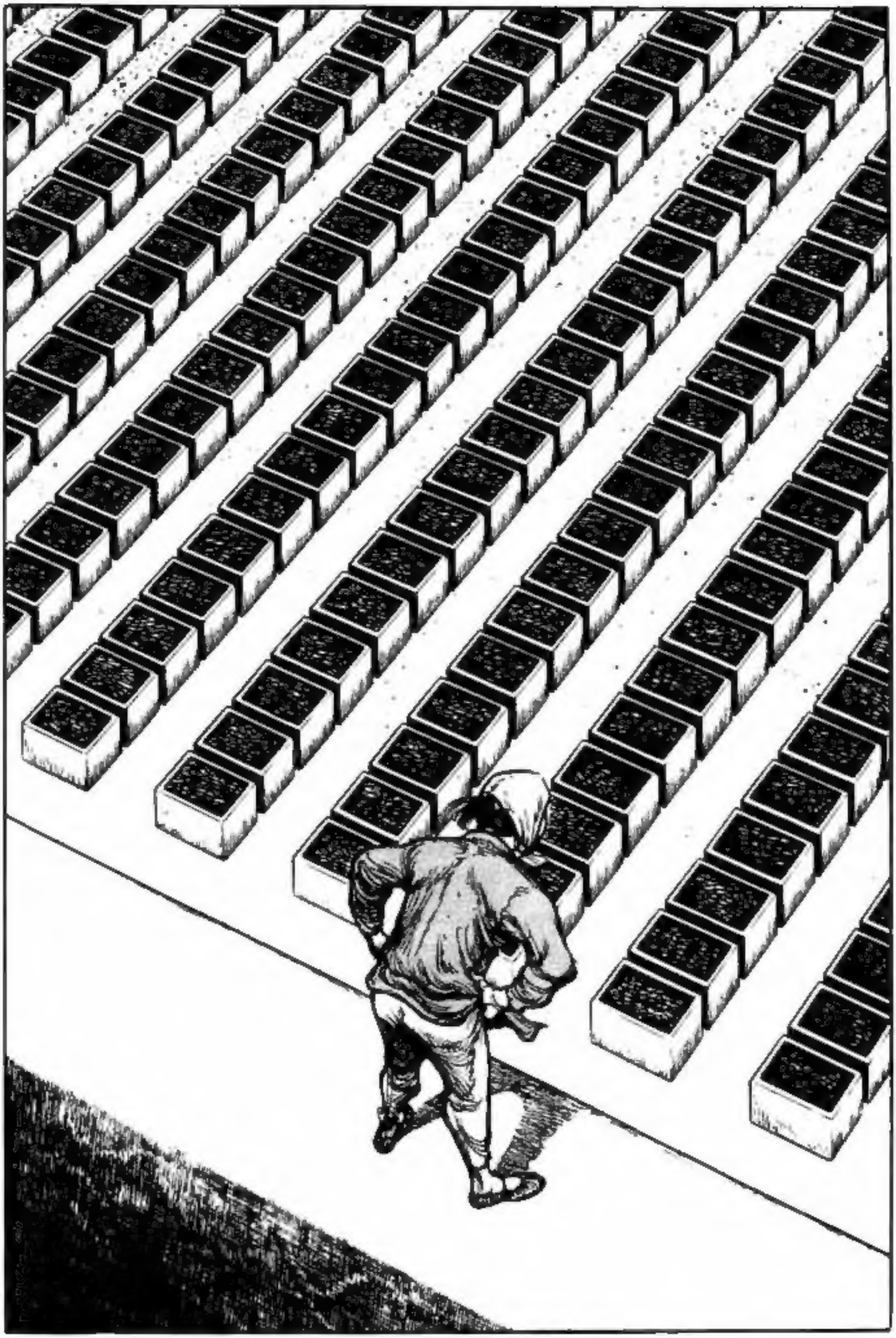
WE WENT HERE TO SEE THE TRUE POWER OF SHIN,

AND NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE READY TO CONQUER ALL OF THE OTHER KINGDOMS

WE MUST REINFORCE SEI'S DEFENSE

BE CAUTIOUS! THIS PLACE IS FILLED WITH MEN OF BOKK WHO KNOW ME. WE MUSTN'T BE DELAYED ANY FURTHER

HUH?



WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE BOXES?

WAIT FOR ME OVER THERE!

HUH? WHY?

LET'S GO KOBU

SHIROU!

KAKURI
...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

CLAC

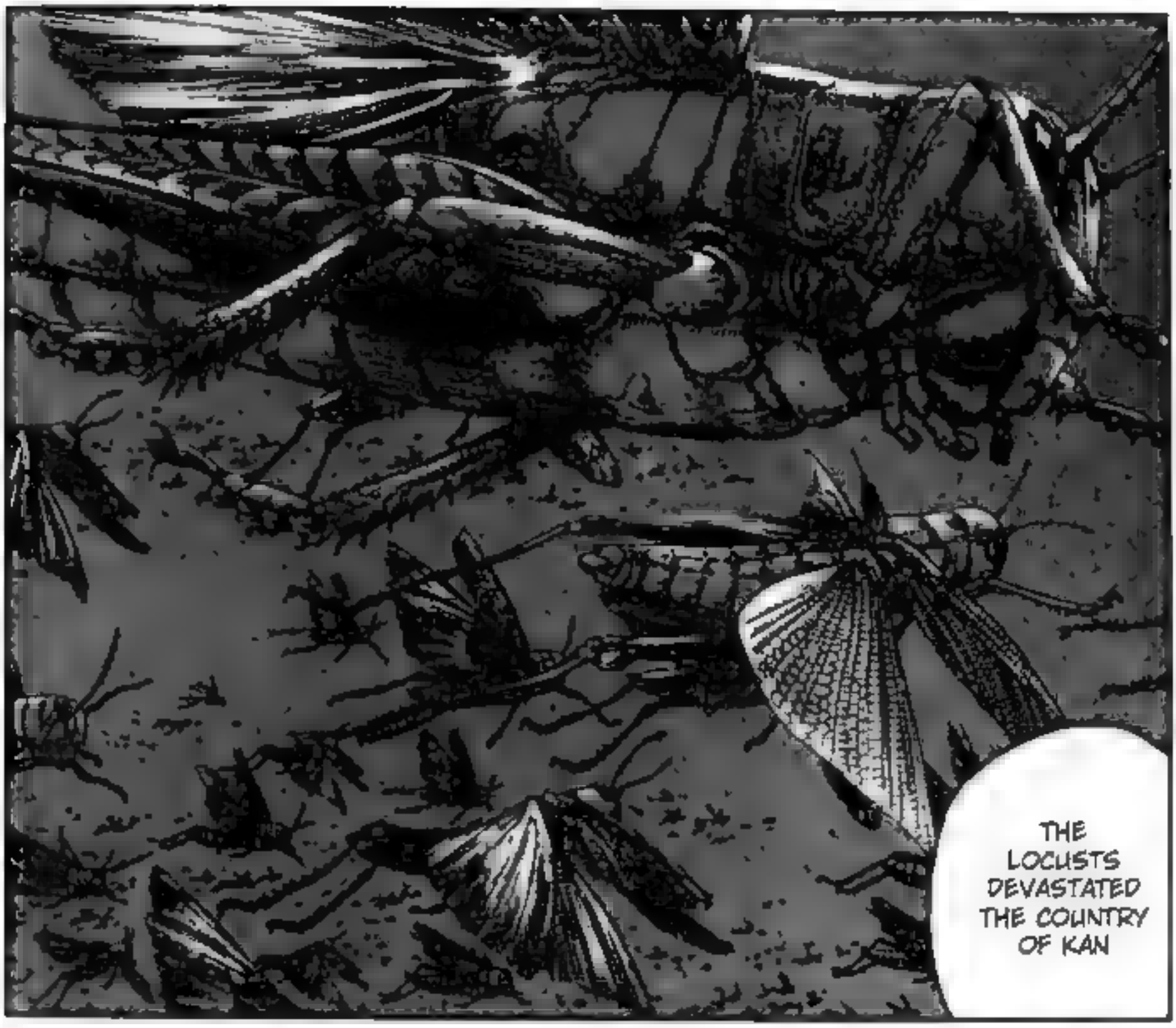
WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

THOSE AREN'T SEEDS!

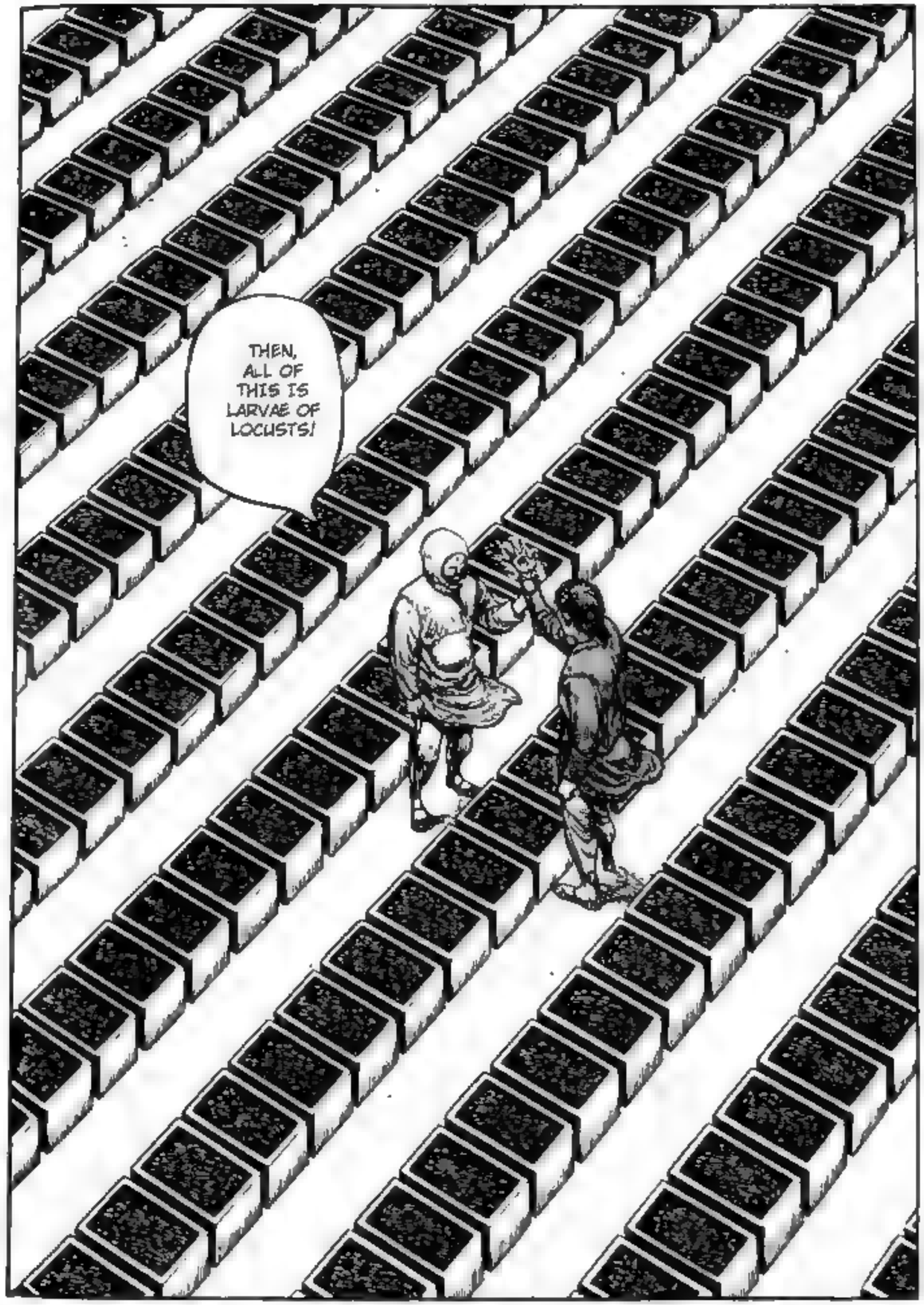
THAT'S INSECT LARVAE!

THE BUTTER-FLIES DANCE ...

THE BEES STING ...


THE LOCUSTS DEVASTATED THE COUNTRY OF KAN

IT IS THE INSECT DIVISION WHO CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON THESE ANIMALS AND HANDLES THEM


THEN, ALL OF THIS IS LARVAE OF LOCUSTS!

THE AGRICULTURE SECTION DEALT WITH INCREASING HARVESTS AND IMPROVING THE GRAINS, BUT THEY ALSO STUDIED HARMFUL INSECTS IN ORDER TO DESTROY THEM. NOW, IT'S CALLED "THE INSECT DIVISION" AND IT'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE USE OF INSECTS AS ARMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ...
AND YOU, SHIROU, YOU ARE A PART OF IT!

SHUT UP, YOU TRAITOR!

PAH

YOU KNOW THAT IF I WOULD SHOUT FOR HELP NOW, THEN YOU WOULD BE CAUGHT IN A SECOND!

IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE, THEN LEAVE SHAIJAN NOW!

TSAH

DZA

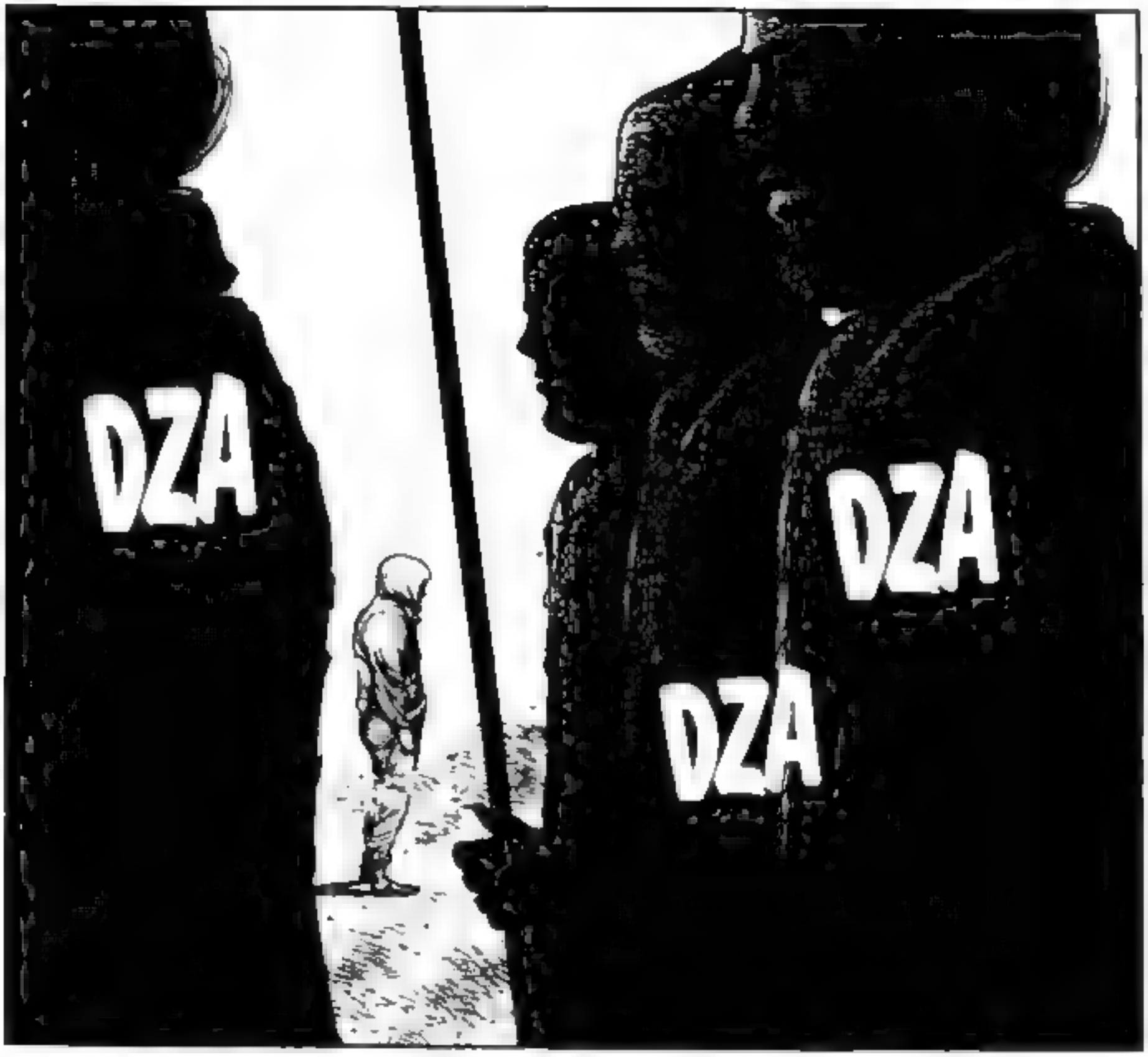
DZA

DZA

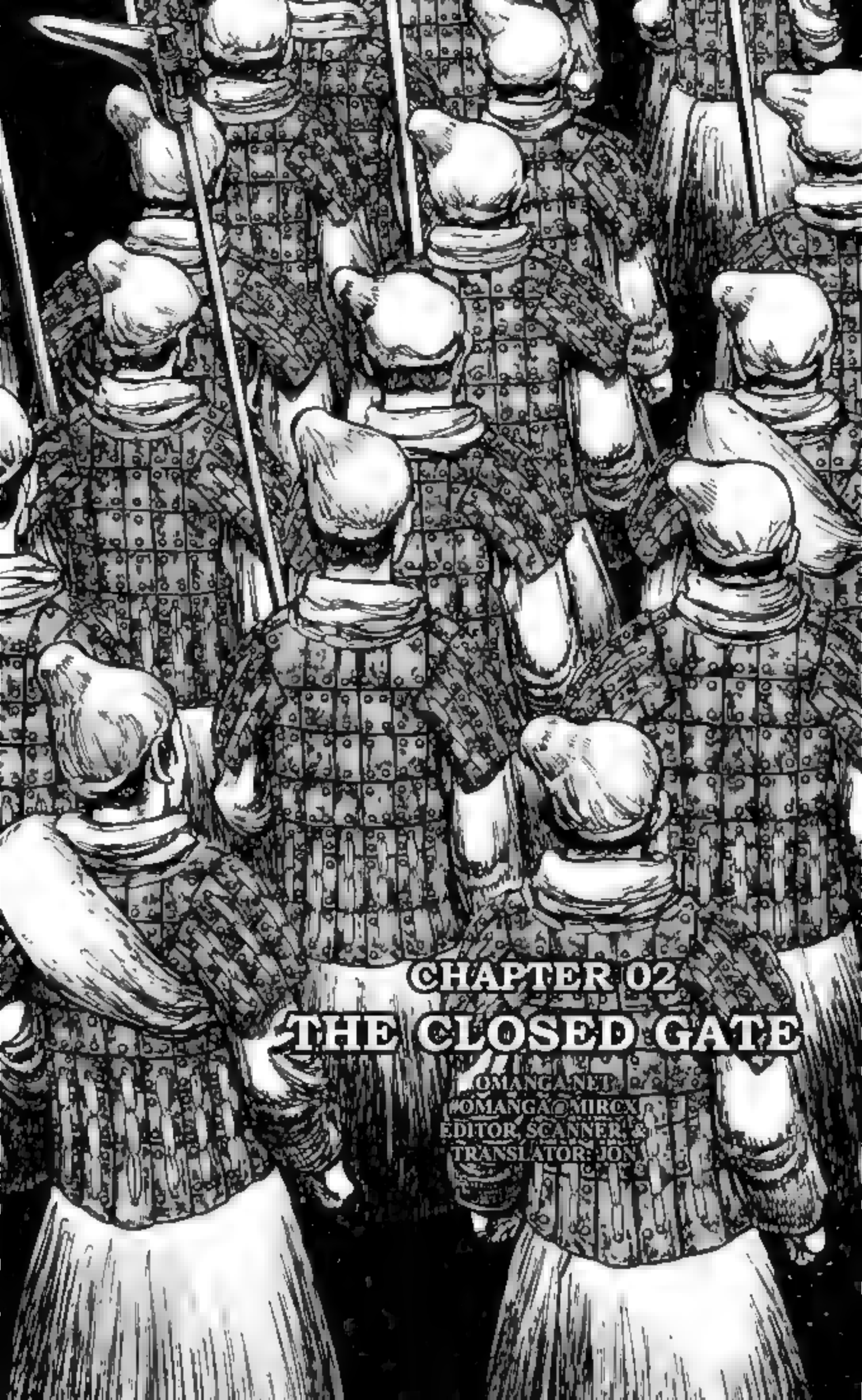
DZA

DZA

THE FIRST TROOPS OF THE ARMY
OF SHIN LEAVE'S FOR TCHO


DZA
DZA
DZA

KAKURI WAS GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND, SHIROU! SOON THE WAR WOULD START IN THE COUNTRY OF TCHO. KAKURI WAS STARTING TO GET NERVOUS!


CHAPTER 02
THE CLOSED GATE
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TRANSLATOR: JON

DZA

DZA

DZA

THAT'S THE FIRST TROOPS THAT WILL INVADE TCHO!

WE TOO SHOULD GO, WE MUST GET THERE BEFORE THEY DO!

DZA

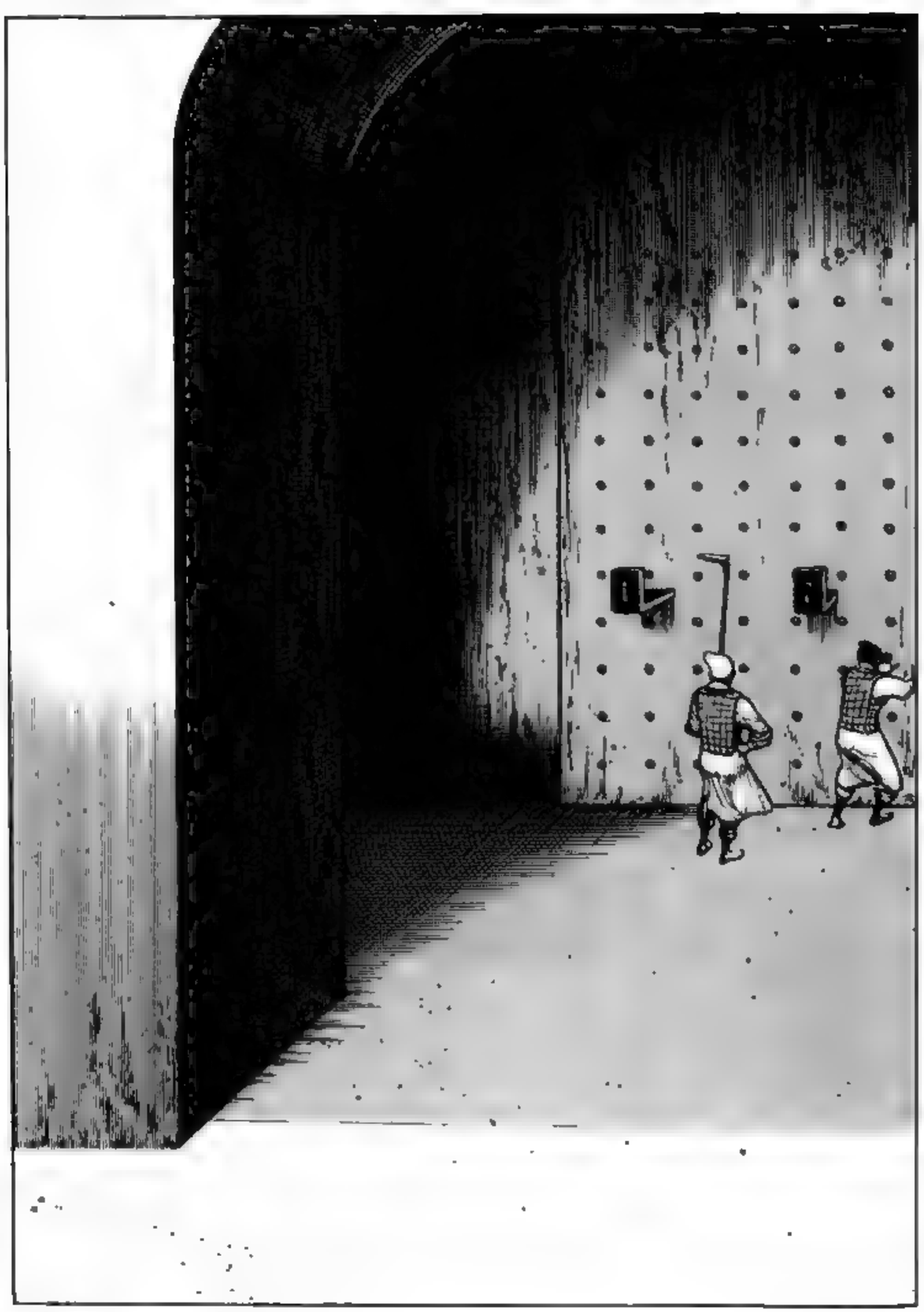
DZA

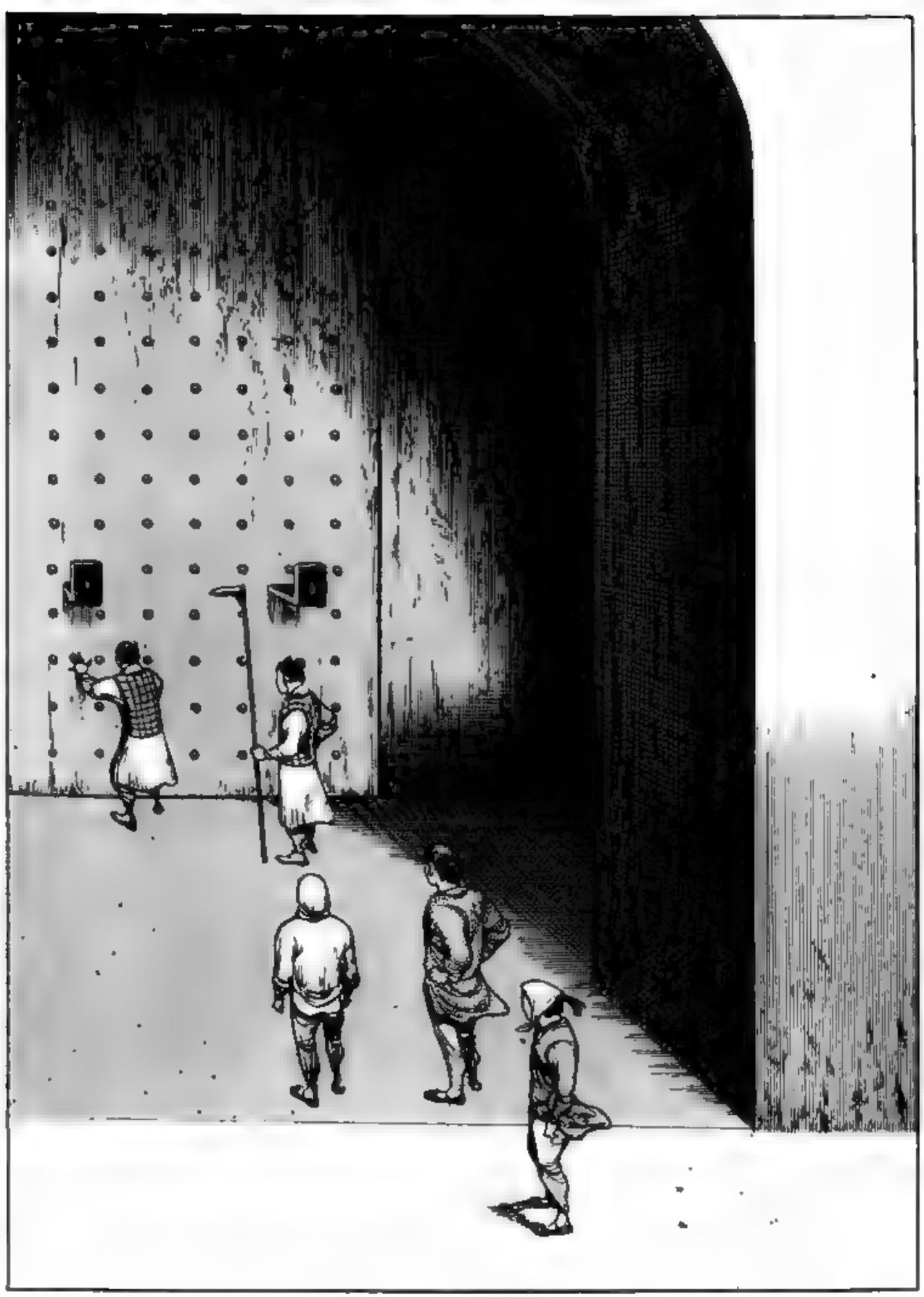
GHII

DOO

THEY CLOSED THE DOOR AGAIN!

TOP TOP





GET LOST! FROM NOW ON, NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER NOR LEAVE!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? AND THEY EVEN REINFORCED THE SECURITY!

I WILL GO GET SOME INFORMATION!

HE CAN BE FRIENDLY WITH ANYONE

I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO BE LIKE THAT!

OUF

IN A BATTLE, KOBU IS NOT VERY USEFUL, HE FITS IN BETTER WITH THE PEASANTS

THAT'S TRUE!

SO DO YOU, YUNJI!

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD KEEP RISKING YOUR LIVES FOR MY SAKE!

DON'T SAY THAT!

IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME ANY FURTHER, THEN YOU MOST LIKELY WILL BE KILLED!

I WANT YOU TO SPEAK WITH KOBU ABOUT THIS!

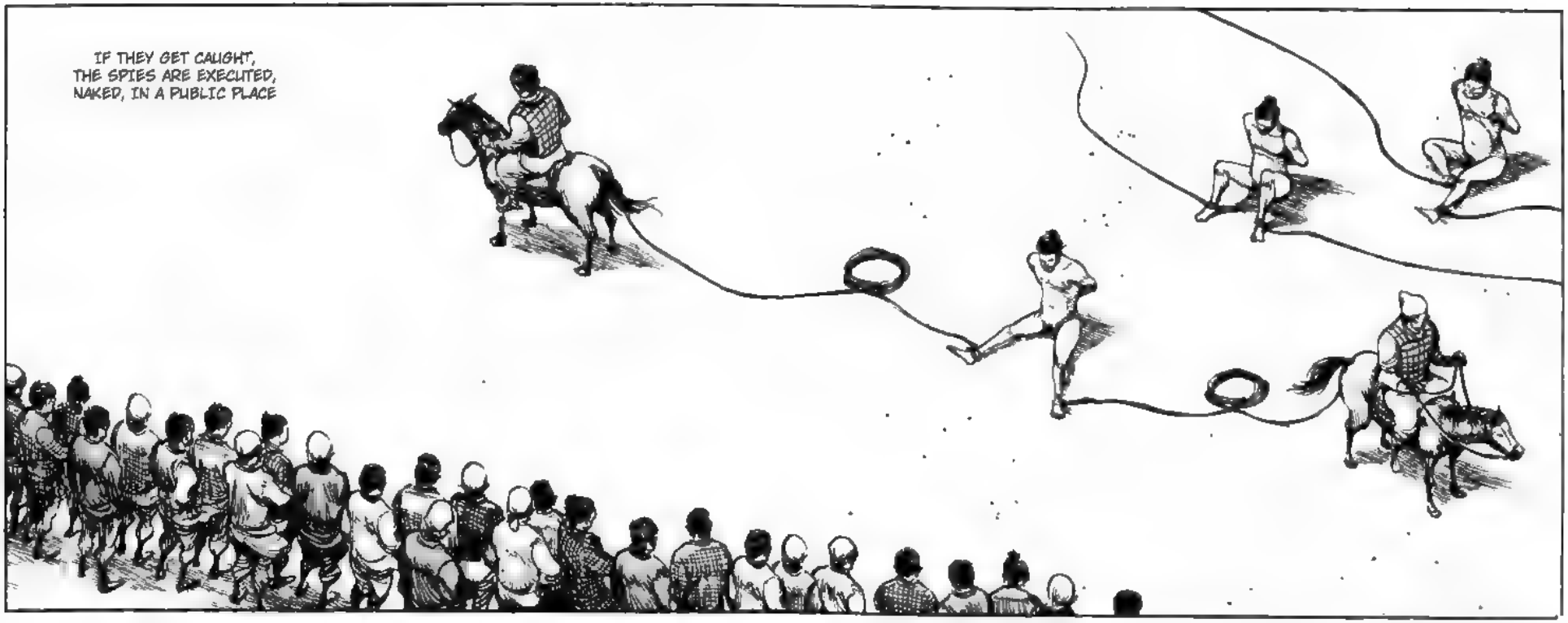
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SPIES!

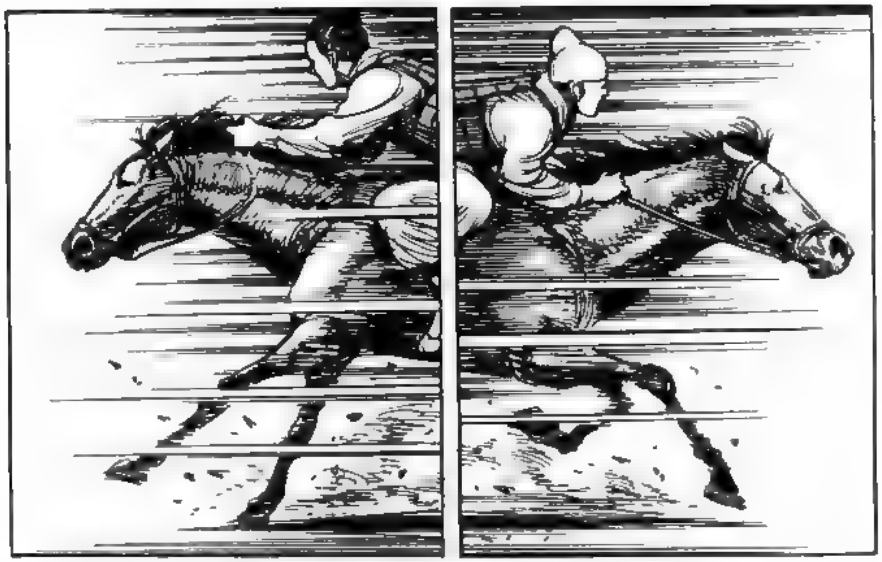
EN
TCHO
SI
SHIN
GHY
YINSHAN
SO

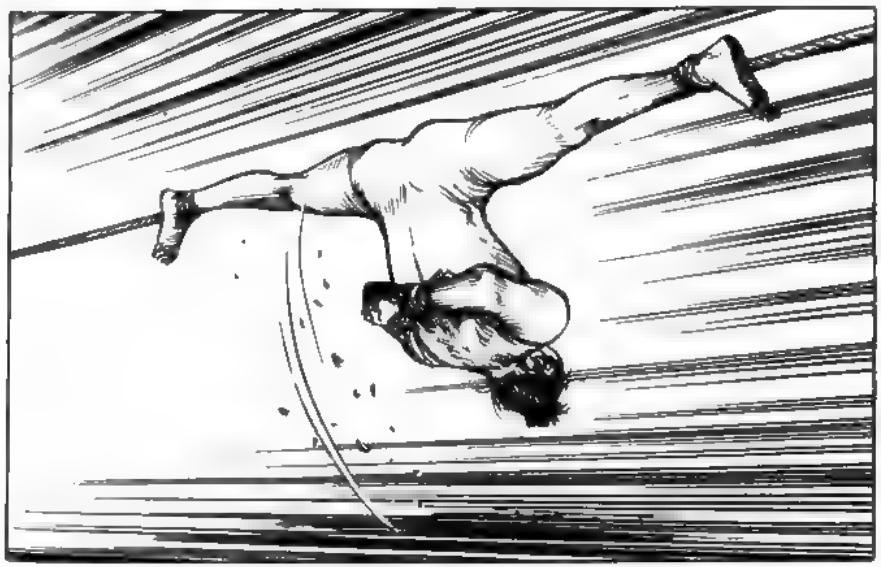
SHAIJAN IS INFESTED WITH SPIES WHO'S OUT TO KILL ZENDOU

THE SECURITY AROUND THE PALACE IS TIGHT, IT'S EVEN IMPOSSIBLE JUST TO APPROACH!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE SPIES SPREAD TERROR BY SETTING HOUSES ON FIRE.


IF THEY GET CAUGHT,
THE SPIES ARE EXECUTED,
NAKED, IN A PUBLIC PLACE





THEY CLOSED THE GATES TO BE ABLE TO CATCH ALL THE SPIES!

DON'T STARE LIKE THAT! IF THEY SEE THAT YOU'RE WATCHING THEM, THEN THEY MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS!

.....

WE GOT HERE AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME!

PIIIP PIIIP

TAP TAP TAP

IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME ANY FURTHER, THEN YOU MOST LIKELY WILL BE KILLED!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

OH, NOTHING ...

PIIIP
PIIIP

OVER THERE, SOUNDS LIKE THEY FOUND ANOTHER SPY

I DON'T THINK IT'S KAKURI, BUT...

HEY YOU! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

TA TA TA TA TA

TCH'K

DZZZAH

RAN OUT OF LUCK, HUH?

HAH

HAH

WAIT! DON'T ...

OH, IT'S A GIRL!

AND SHE'S PRETTY!

DON'T CALL FOR THE OTHER GUARDS!

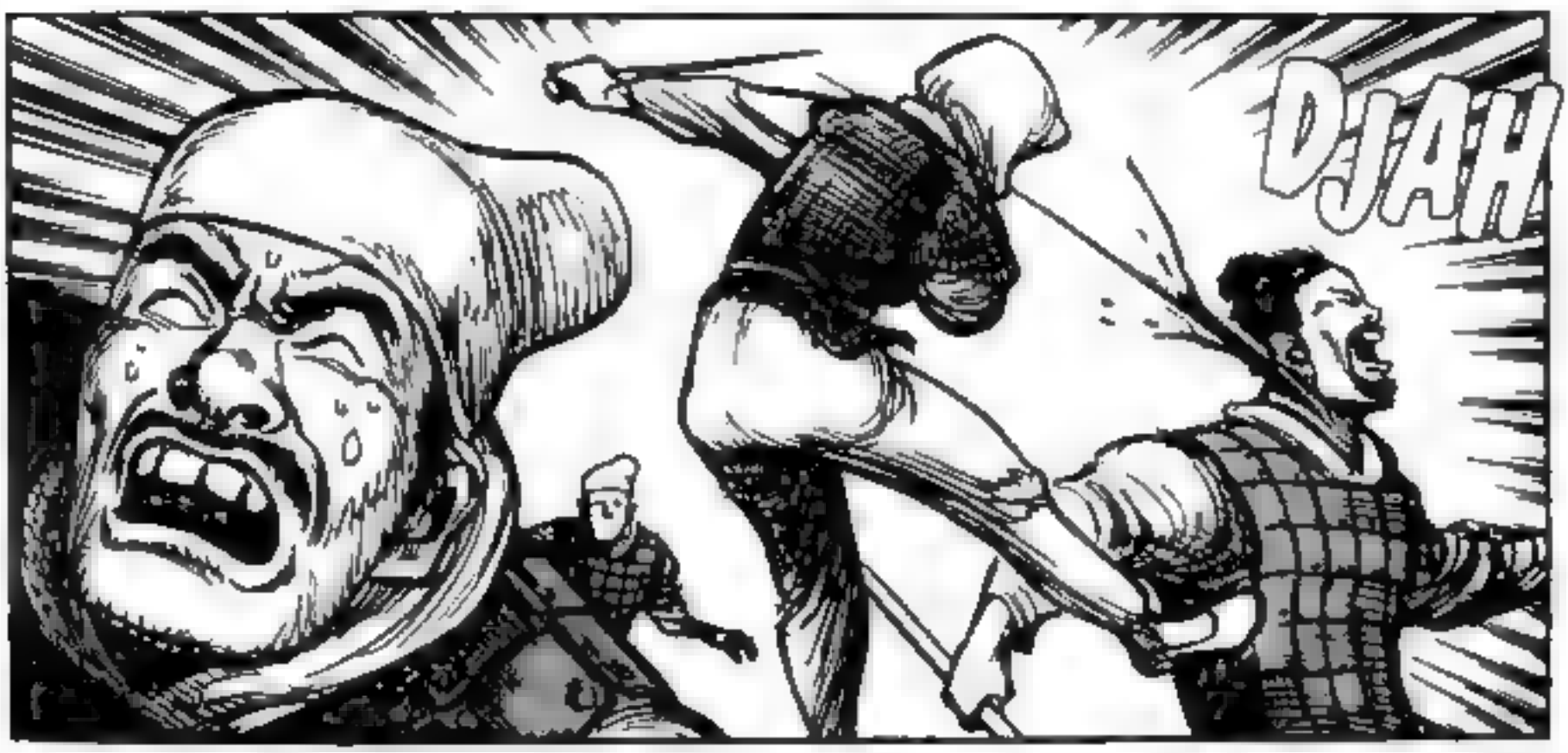
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, ALL THREE OF US!

DAH

SHSHSH

ZZZ

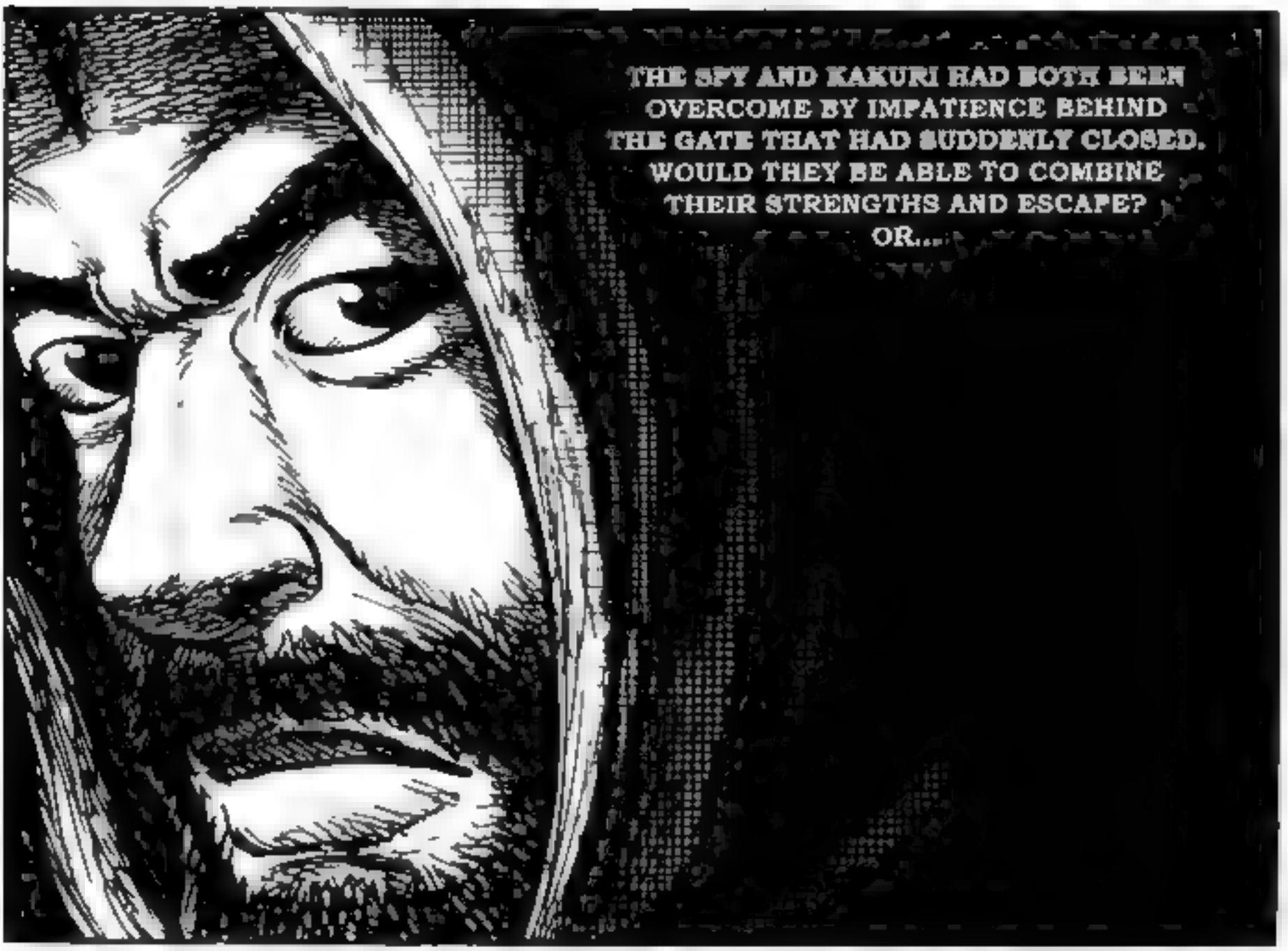
JOFF


DJAH

DJAH

NAH
NAH

PSHSHSH


THE SPY AND KAKURI HAD BOTH BEEN OVERCOME BY IMPATIENCE BEHIND THE GATE THAT HAD SUDDENLY CLOSED. WOULD THEY BE ABLE TO COMBINE THEIR STRENGTHS AND ESCAPE? OR...

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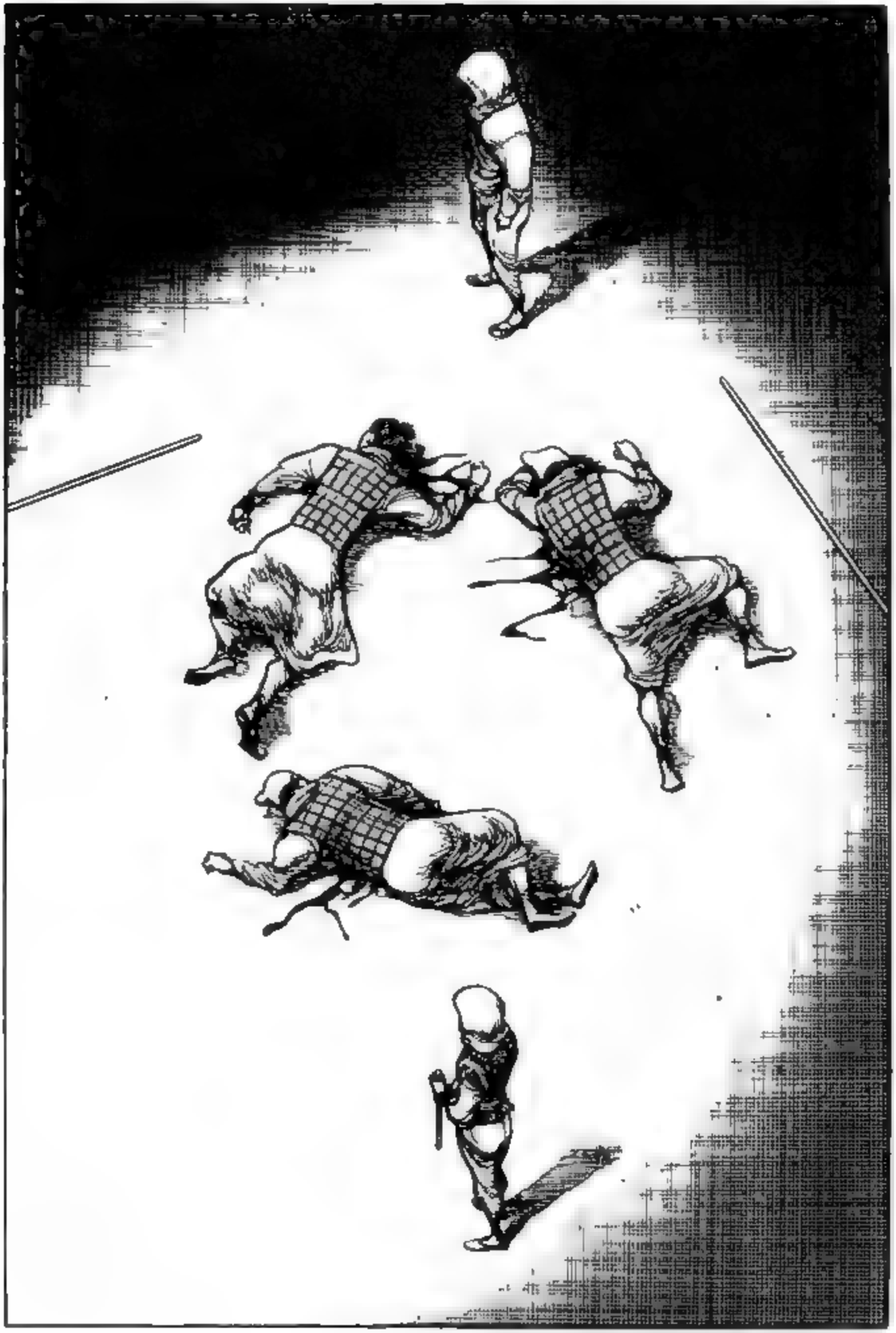
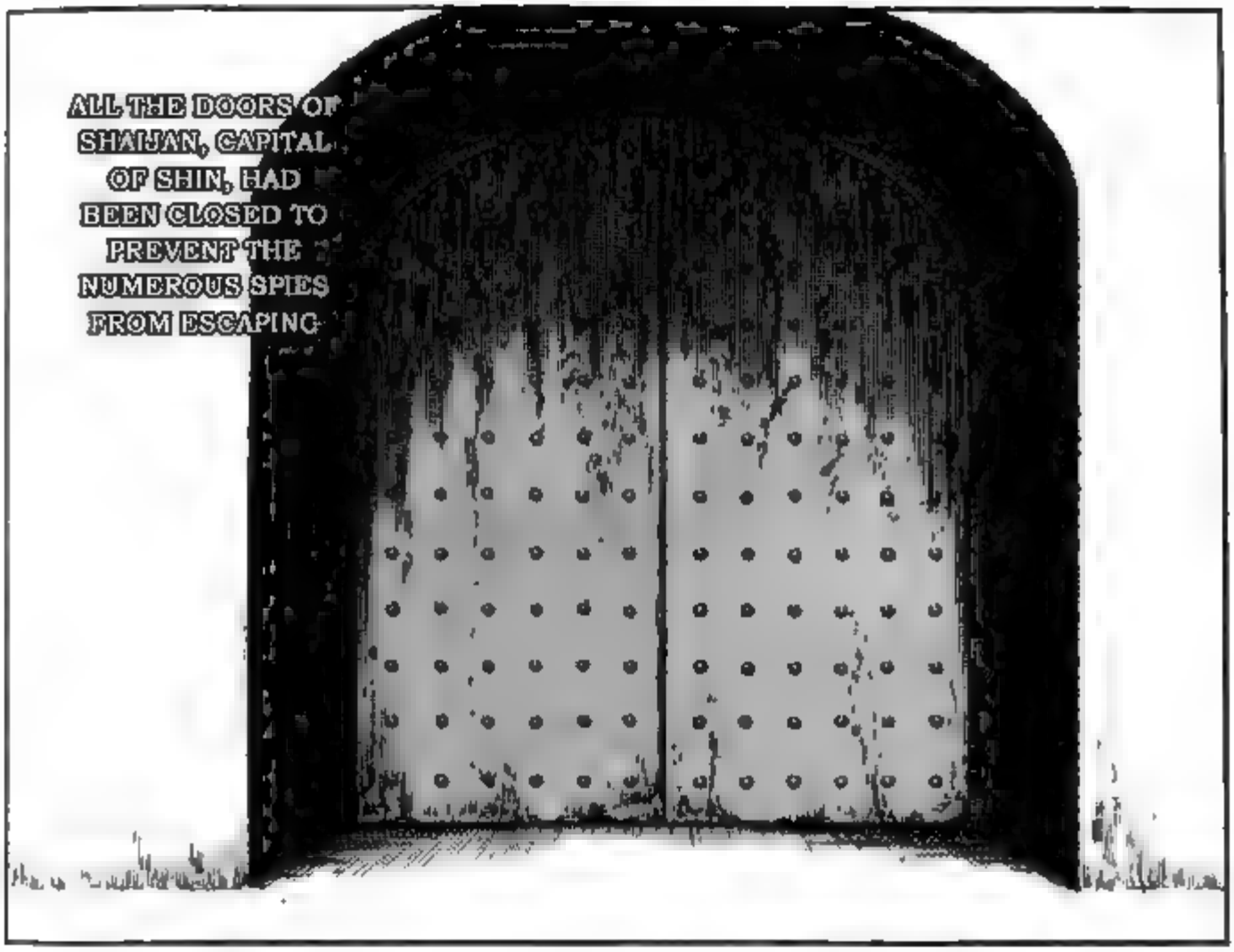
CHAPTER 03
THE SPY WITH A SAD FACE

EDITOR, SCANNER,
& TRANSLATOR: JON
PROOFREADER: ZYPH

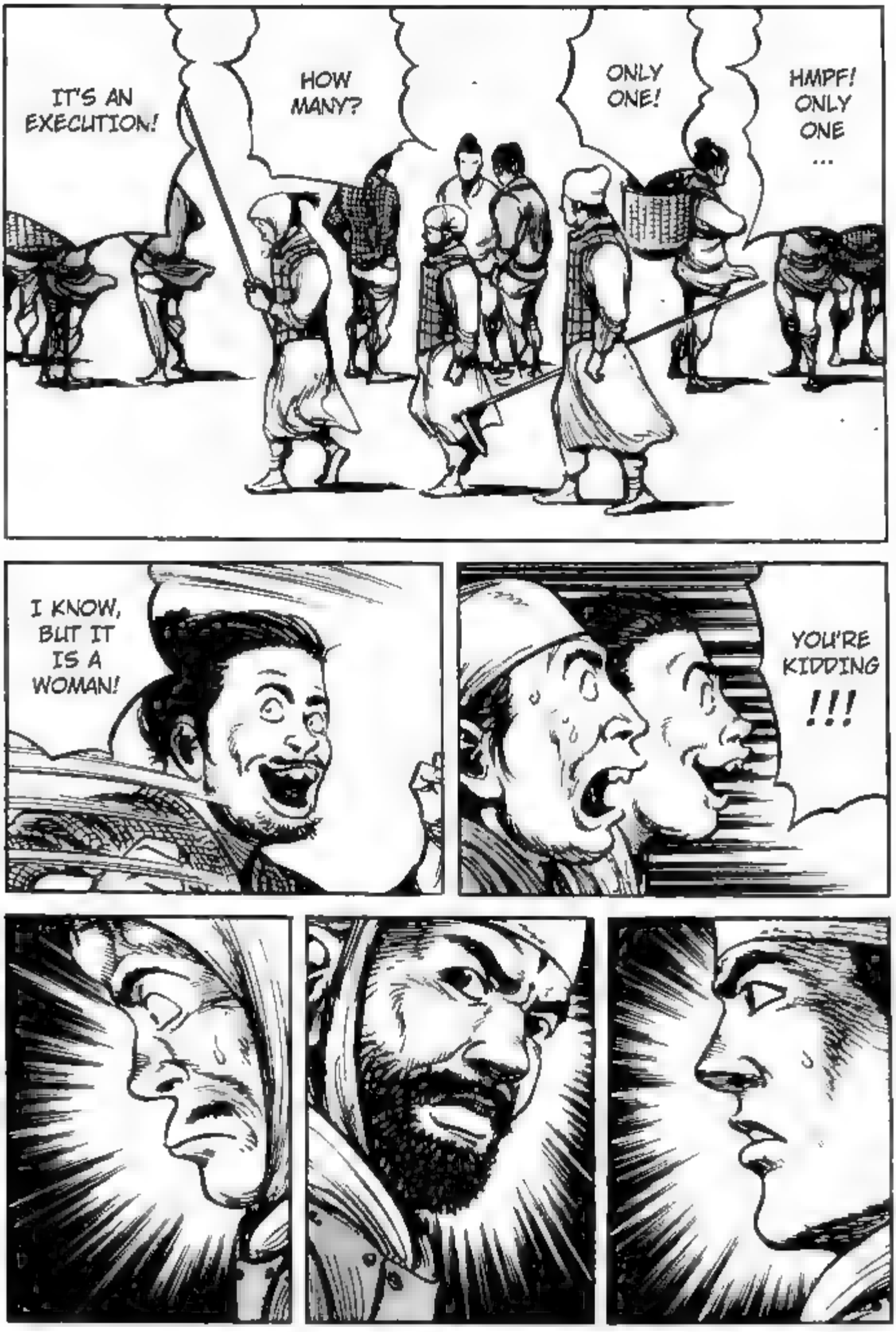


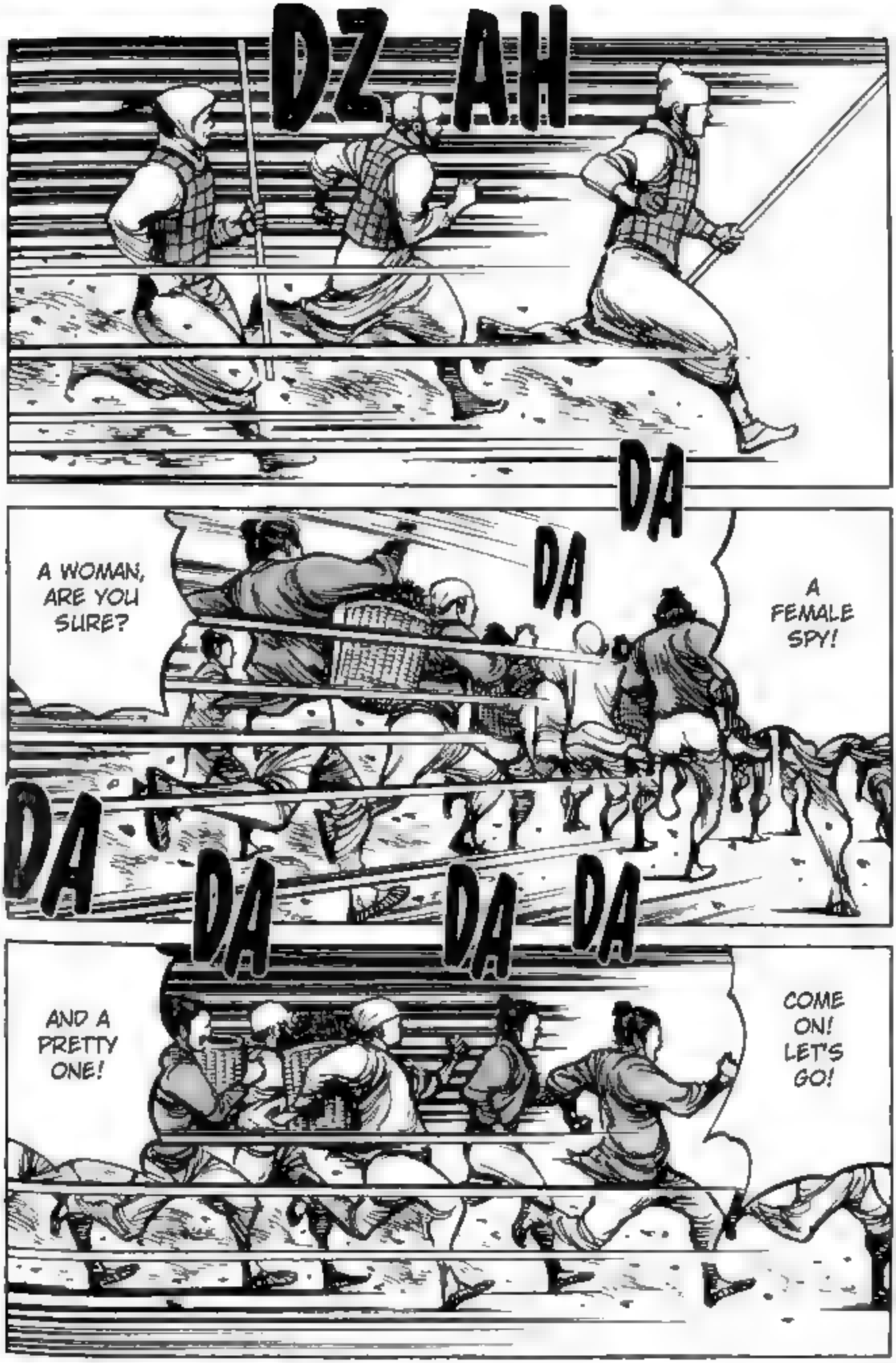
TSHSH
ME, I'M FROM TCHO, AND YOU,
FROM WHICH COUNTRY DO YOU COME?
.....
KAKURI!
DON'T BE AFRAID,
THEY ARE WITH ME!
KAKURI!

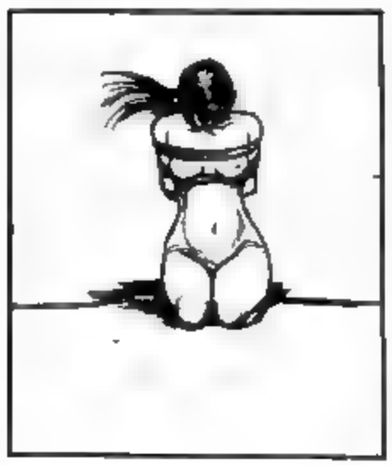
KAKURI, THE MAN OF BOKK, COULD THAT REALLY BE HIM?
OH, THREE UNIFORMS!
I RECOGNIZE YOUR TACTICS!
NOW WE CAN DISGUISE OURSELVES AS SOLDIERS
NO, IT WASN'T I WHO DID THIS!
WHAT ???
DZA
BUT THAT WAS A WOMAN!
AND SUCH A PRETTY ONE!
IN THE TIMES OF WAR, EVEN IF YOU'RE BORN A WOMAN, YOU WILL STILL NEED A WEAPON


ALL THE DOORS OF
SHAIJAN, CAPITAL
OF SHIN, HAD
BEEN CLOSED TO
PREVENT THE
NUMEROUS SPIES
FROM ESCAPING

THOSE WHO WERE CAUGHT
GOT EXECUTED WITHOUT
ANY MERCY


IT'S AN EXECUTION!
HOW MANY?
ONLY ONE!
HMPF! ONLY ONE ...
I KNOW, BUT IT IS A WOMAN!
YOU'RE KIDDING !!!


DZ AH
DA
DA
A WOMAN, ARE YOU SURE?
A FEMALE SPY!
DA
DA
DA
DA
AND A PRETTY ONE!
COME ON! LET'S GO!



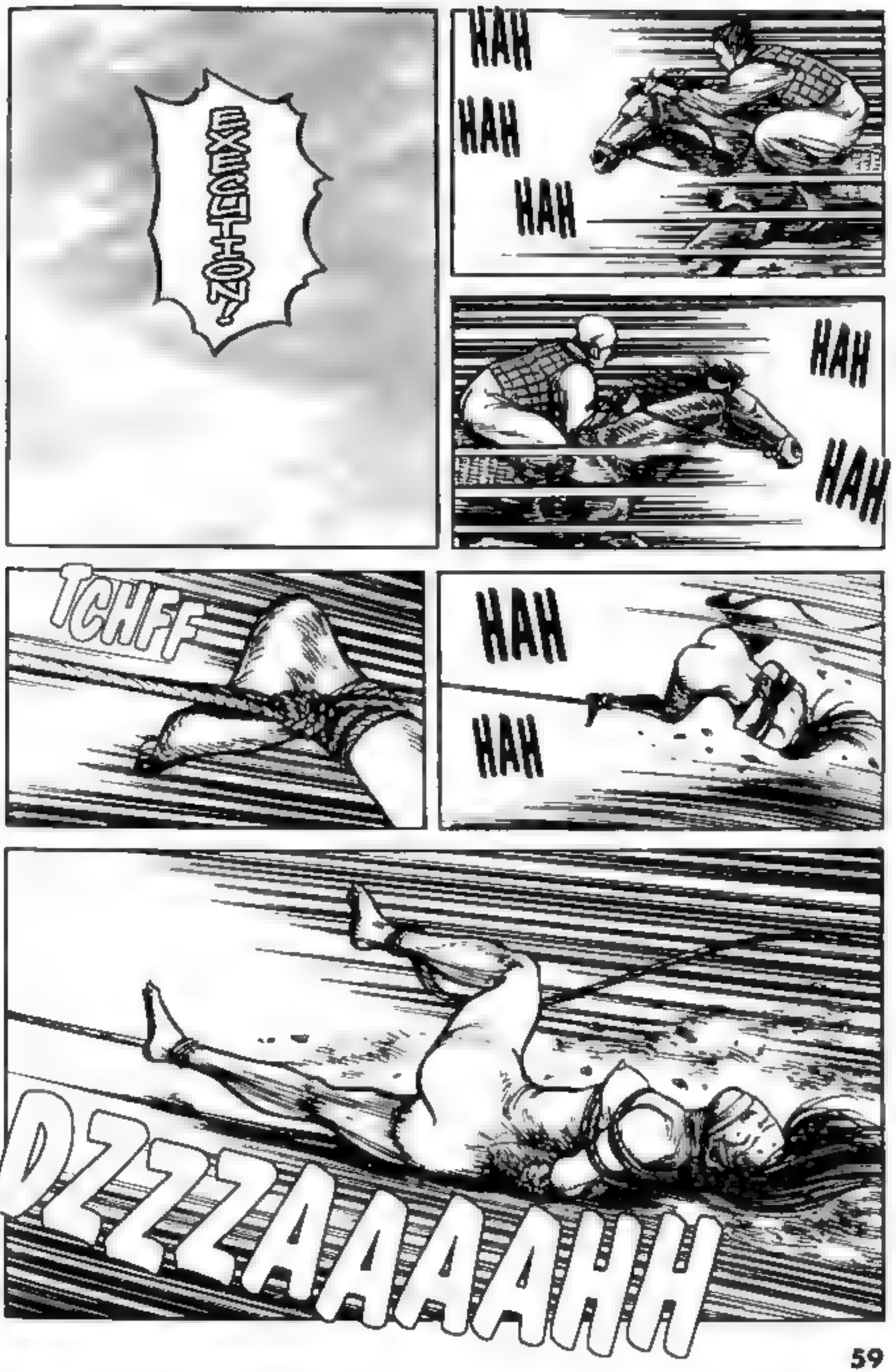
WAH, SUCH A PRETTY LITTLE GIRL!
THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS!

LET ME PASS!

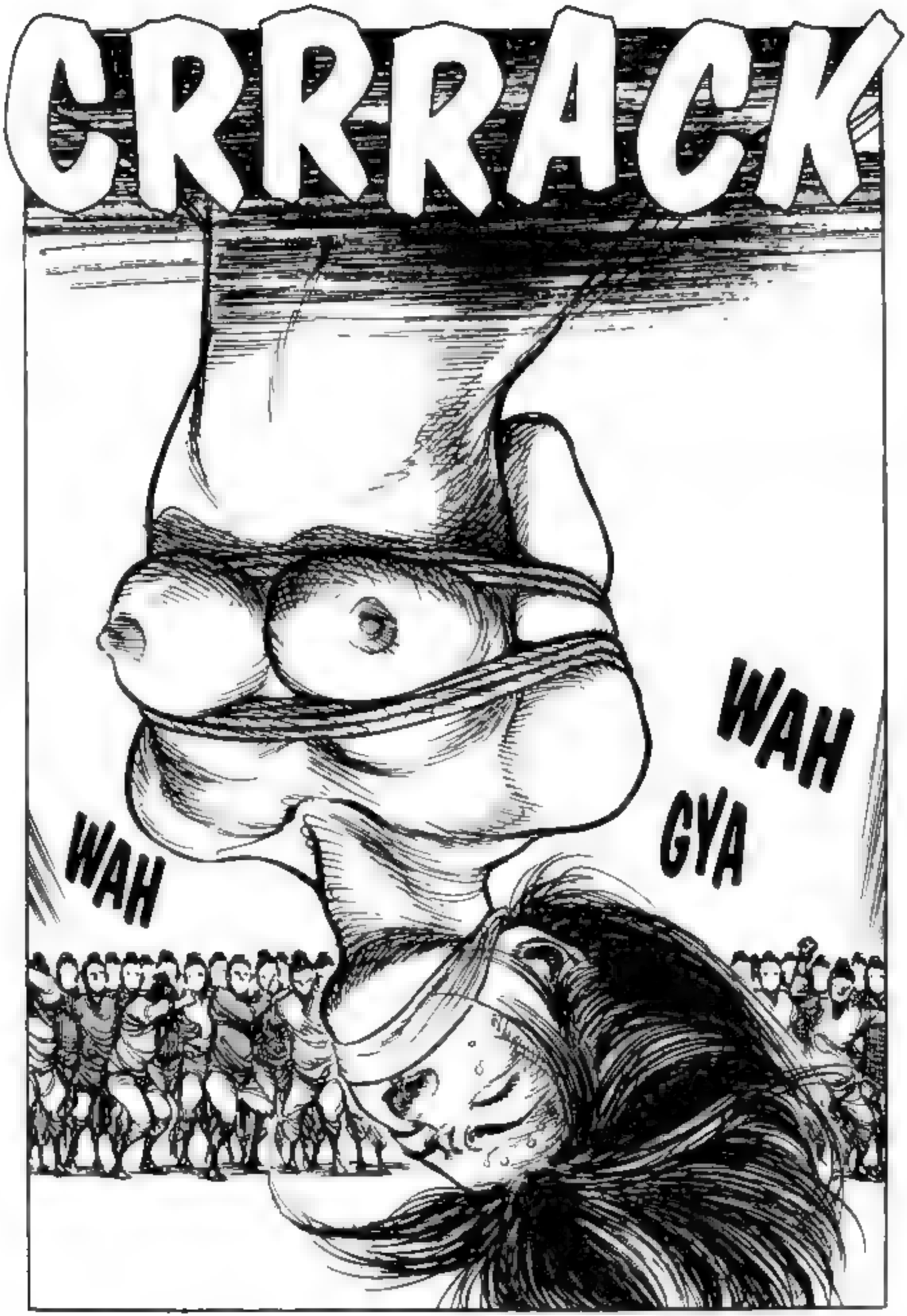
AH!

THOSE ANIMALS!
LOOK, SHE'S HERE!
HEY! YOU'RE RIGHT!
THE SPY WHO GOT CAUGHT LOOKS A LOT LIKE HER

HIH
LOOK AT HIS CREEPY SMILE, I BET HE GETS OFF ON STUFF LIKE THIS
REUH
GET ON WITH IT, WE WANNA SEE SOME BLOOD!
HURRY UP!
SPLITT HER ASS ALREADY!

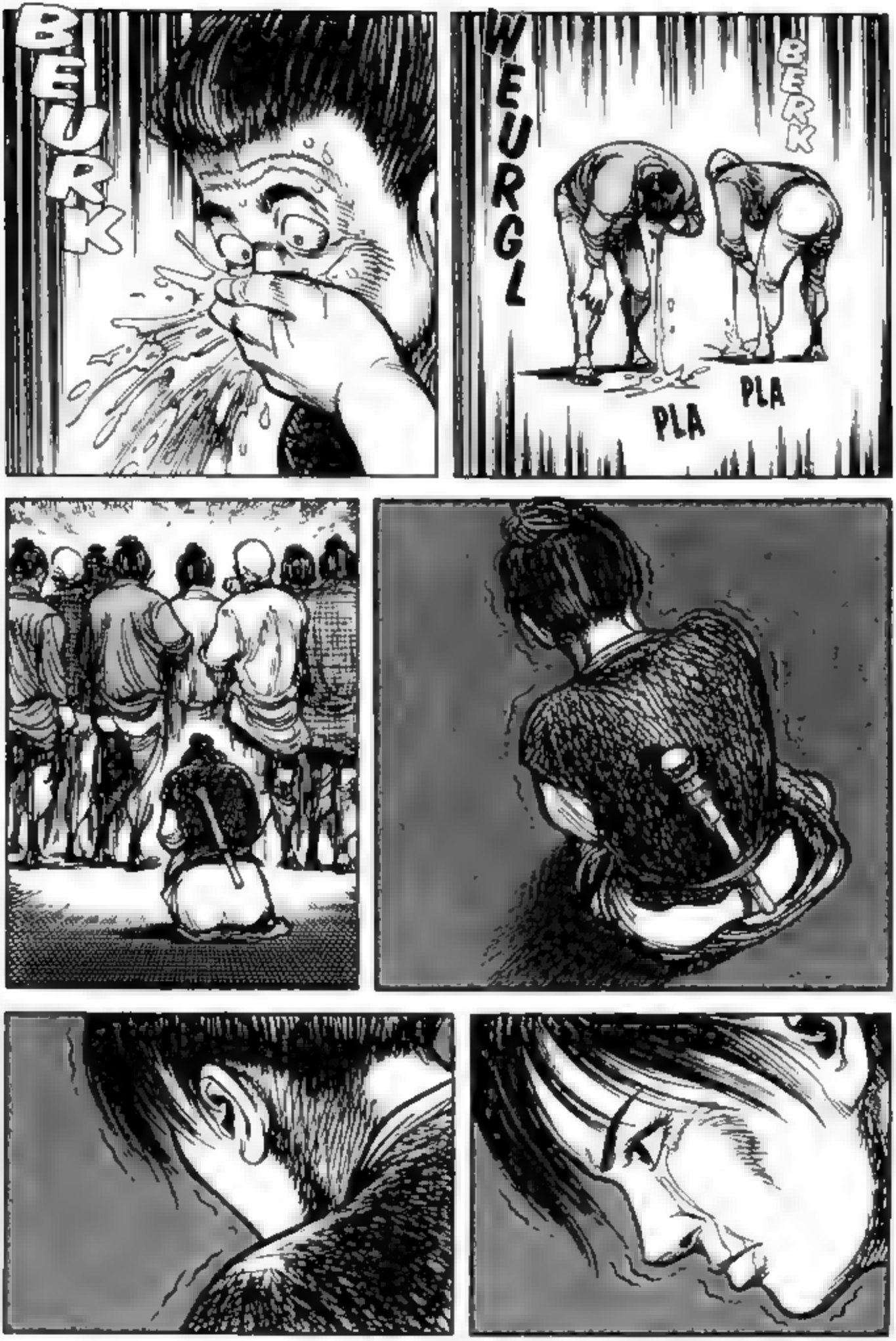

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
TCHFF
HAH
HAH
DZZAAAAHH

GOD DAMN!
DZZFF
SSSCCHHHKKK
TCHACK

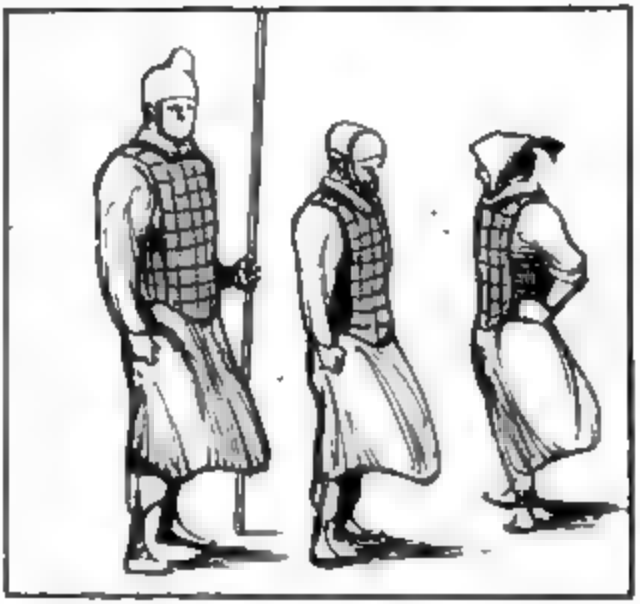

CRRRACK
WAH
GYA
WAH

DJJJJ

FLASH
WAAH
GHYAH
PFAF


BEURK
WEURGL
BERK
PLA
PLA
PLA

EVERYONE LISTEN! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS BEFORE ALL THE SPIES WILL BE CAUGHT!
SOME ARE DISGUISED AS MERCHANTS,
AS PEASANTS, PERHAPS EVEN AS SOLDIERS
THOSE WHO REPORT A SUSPECT WILL RECEIVE A REWARD

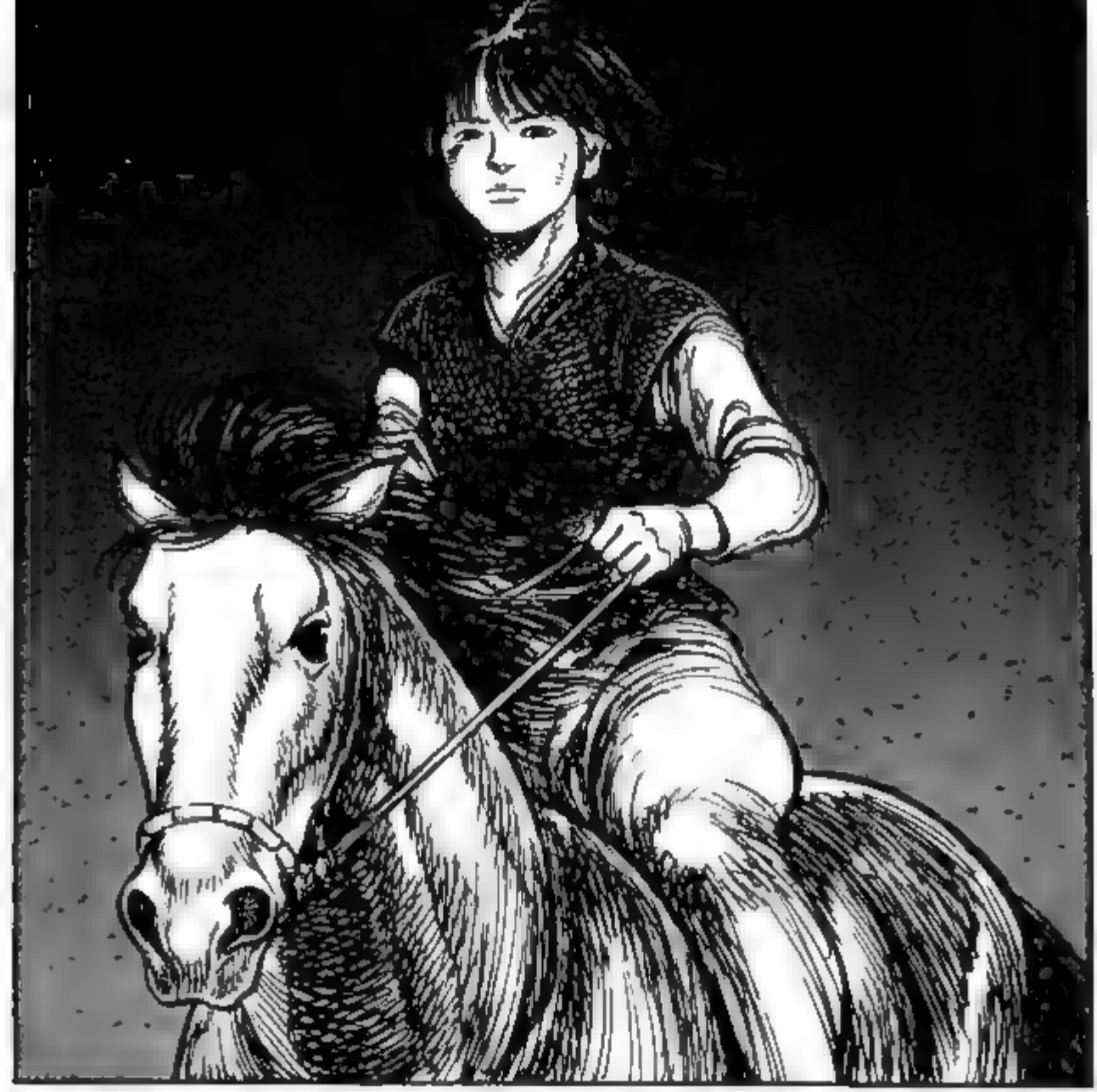


BRRR

THEY REALLY WERE ALIKE, IT MUST'VE BEEN HER SISTER!
STILL, SHE DID NOT ALLOW HERSELF GET CARRIED AWAY AND DO SOMETHING STUPID
SHE'S YOUNG AND STRONG, BUT THOSE WHO CRY CANNOT BE WITHOUT PITY, SHE IS A SAD WARRIOR

WAH

TCHOCK
SHSHSH
GHYAH

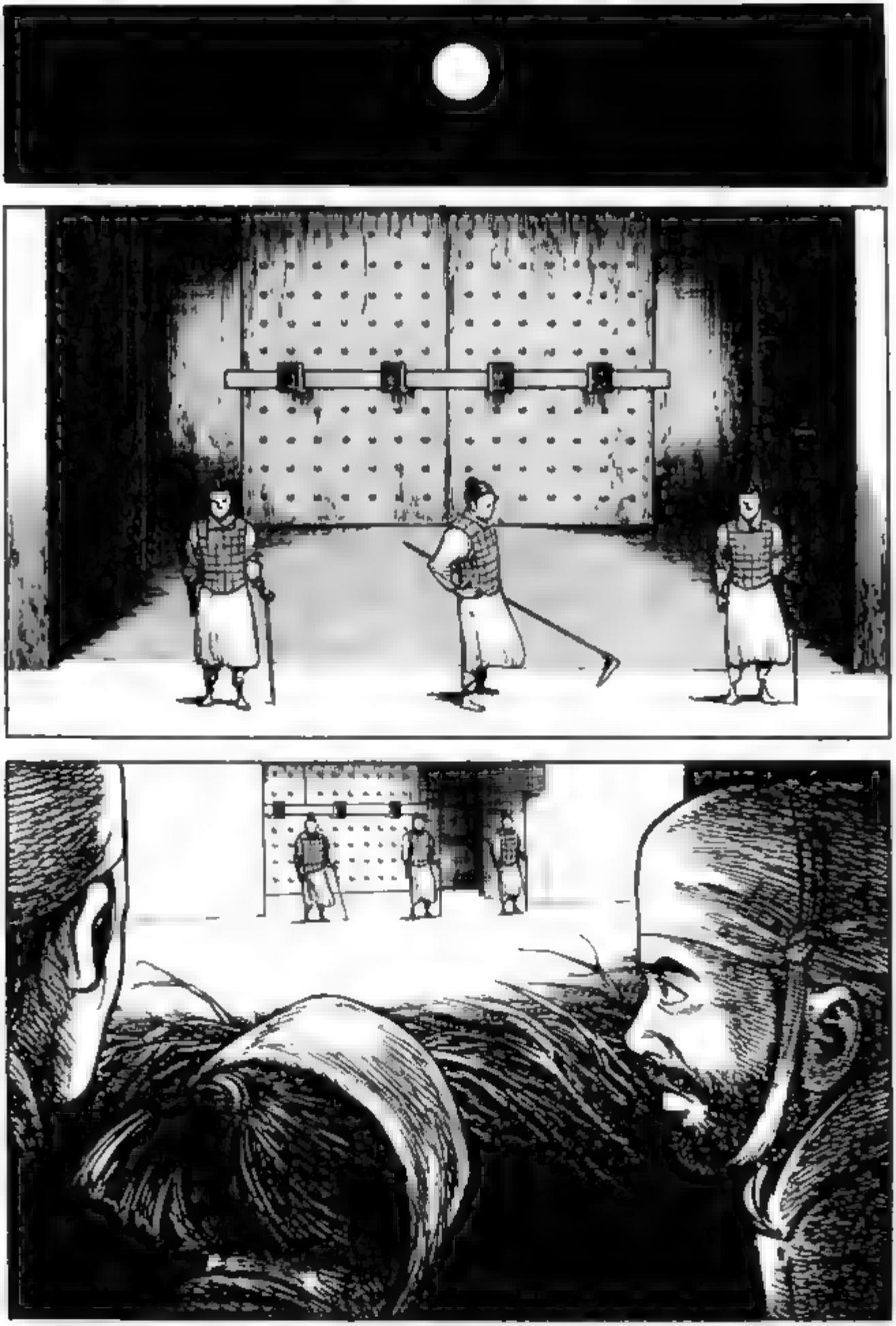


THE YOUNG FEMALE SPY DIDN'T SHARE KAKURI'S WORRIES. FOR HER, THE BATTLE HAD ALREADY STARTED

#omanga@irc.mircx.com

CHAPTER 04
THE FURY

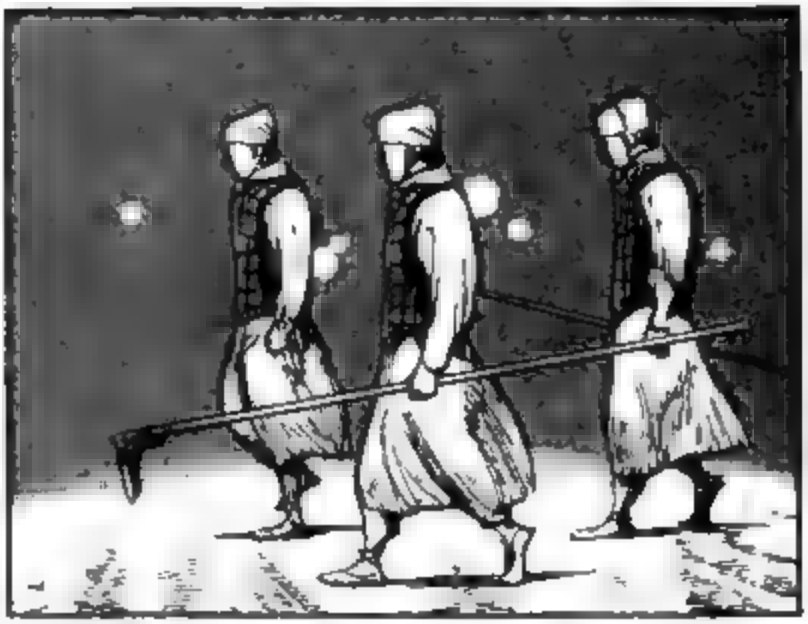
EDITOR, SCANNER, & TRANSLATOR: JON
PROOFREADER: ZYPH

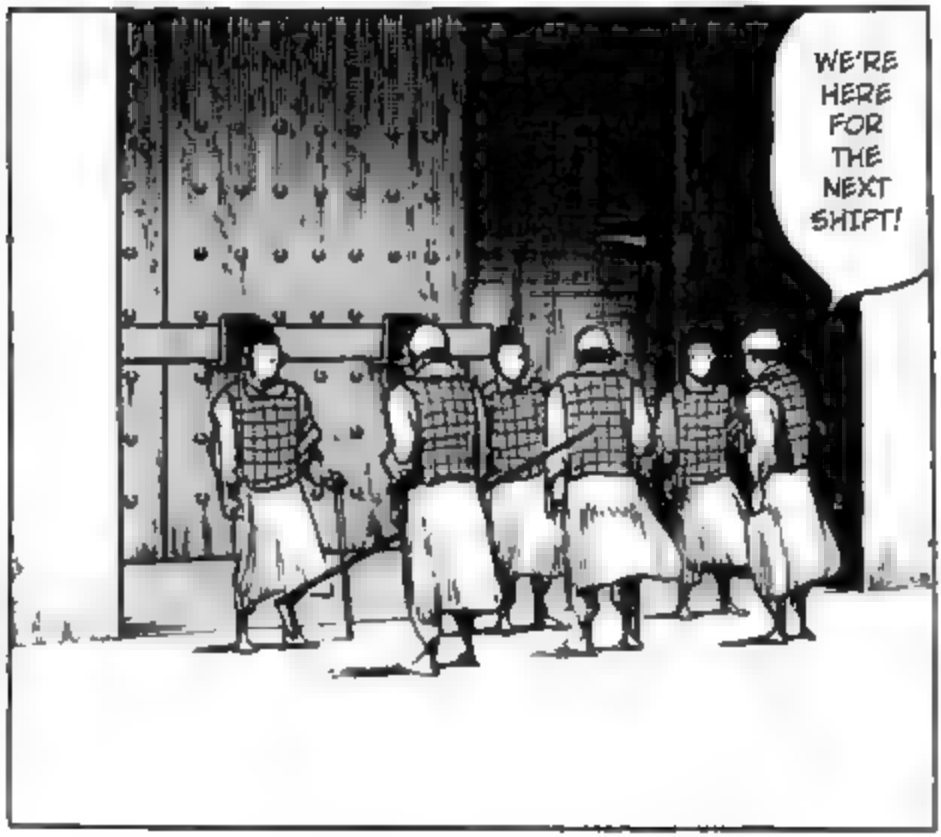


THERE'S ONLY THREE GUARDS BY EACH GATE,
I THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CUT THEM DOWN AND LEAVE!

IF IT WAS SO SIMPLE TO LEAVE, THE OTHER SPIES WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN LONG GONE

THREE SOLDIERS ARE COMING




WE'RE HERE FOR THE NEXT SHIFT!

THE NEXT SHIFT, HUH?
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE SAY ANY-THING ABOUT THAT!
HA! SO YOU ARE SPIES DISGUISED AS SOLDIERS, HUH!

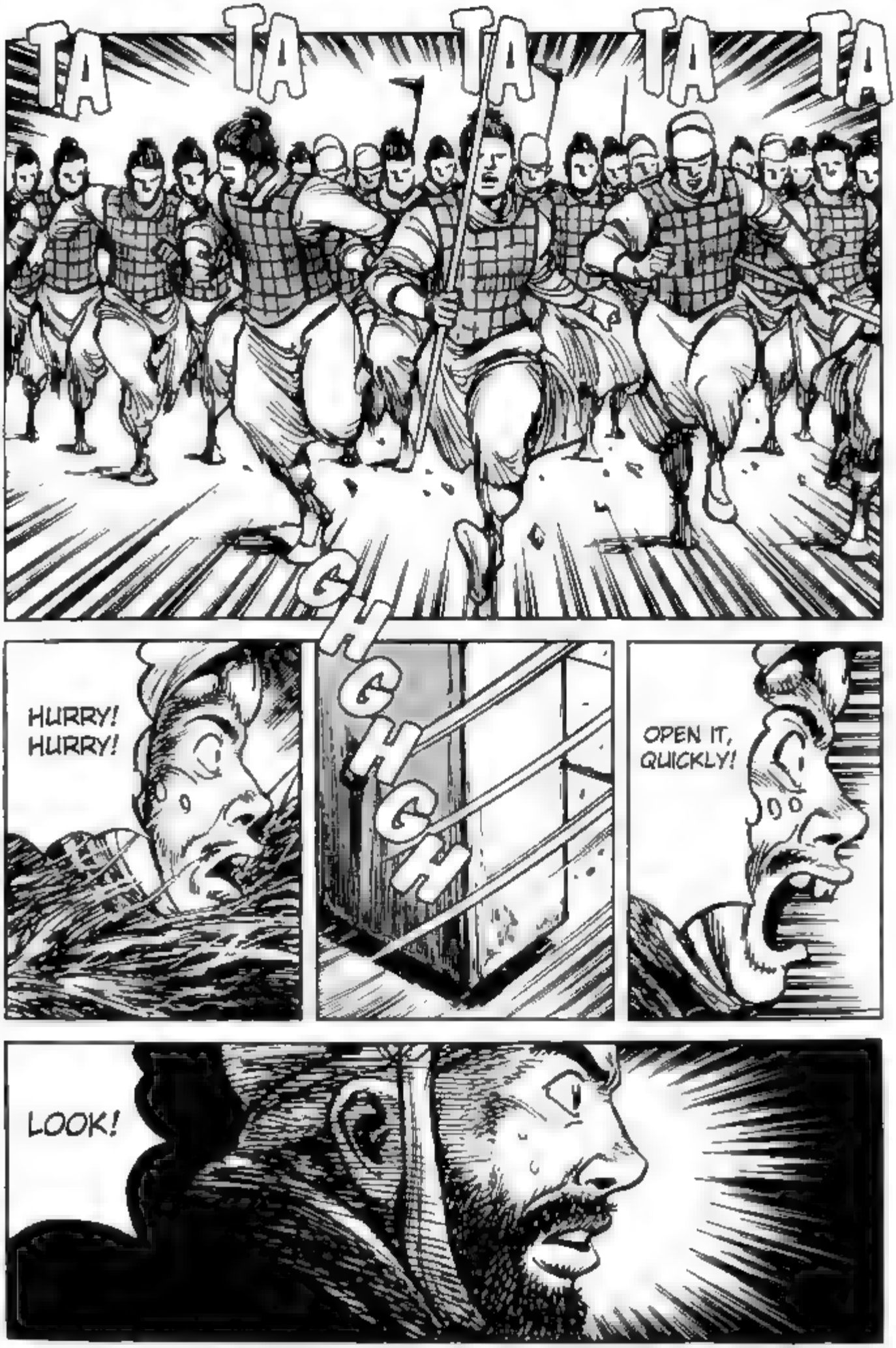
PUT
BASTARDS
!!!
WAAHH
DZK

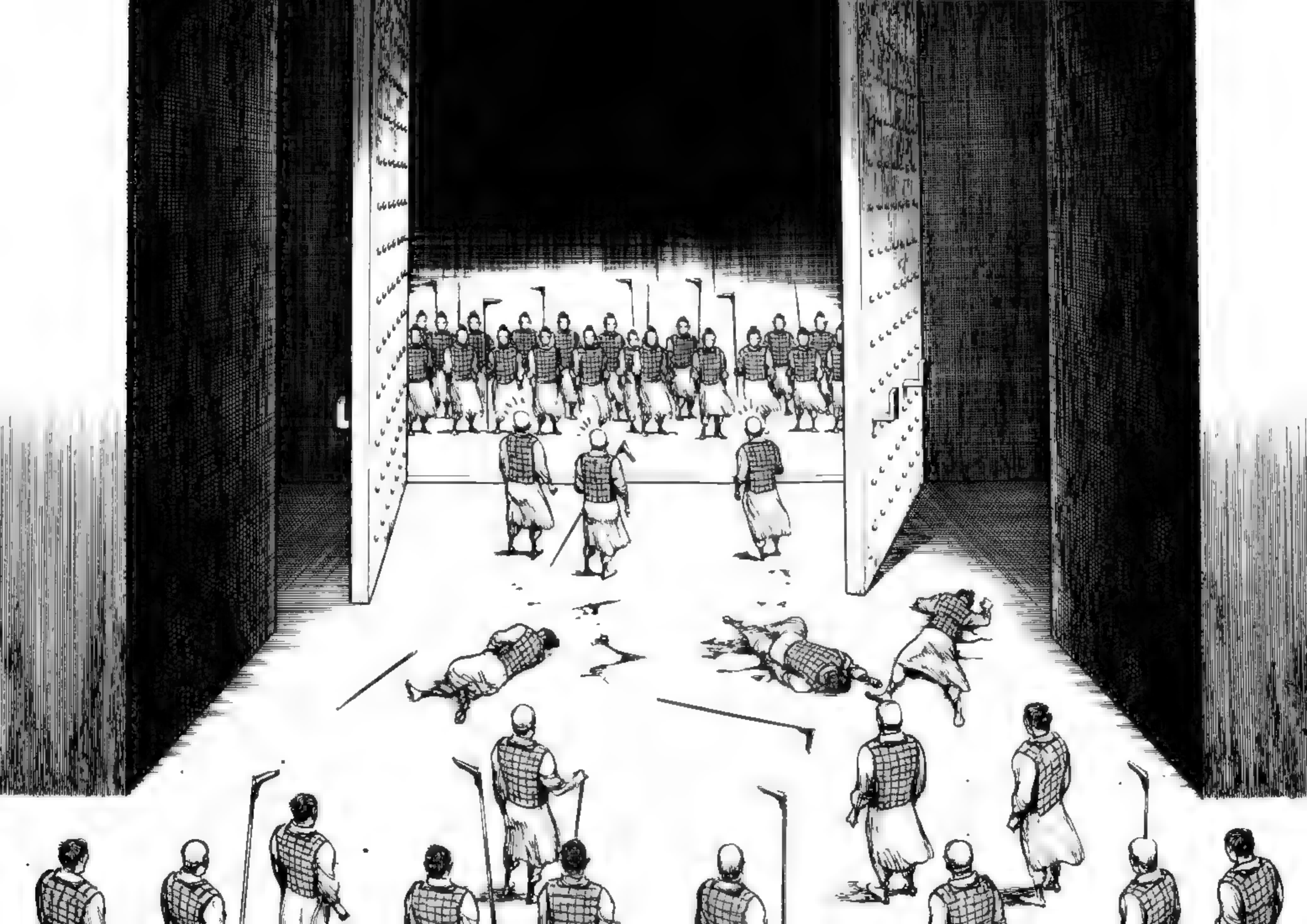
OPEN THE GATE !!!

TCHK

TA TA TA TA TA

LOOK! A BUNCH OF SOLDIERS ARE APPROACHING!


TA TA TA TA TA
CHCHCH
HURRY! HURRY!
OPEN IT, QUICKLY!
LOOK!

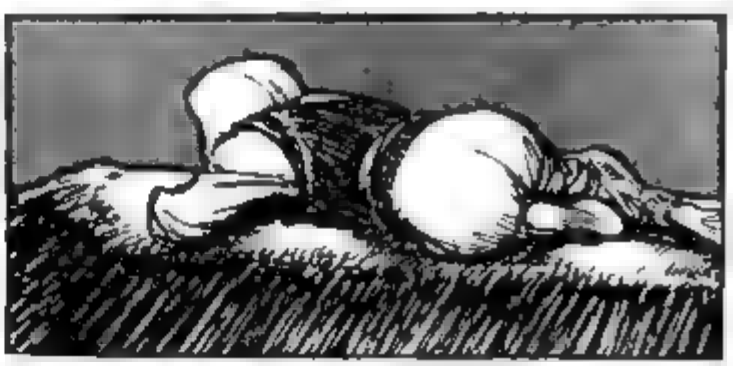


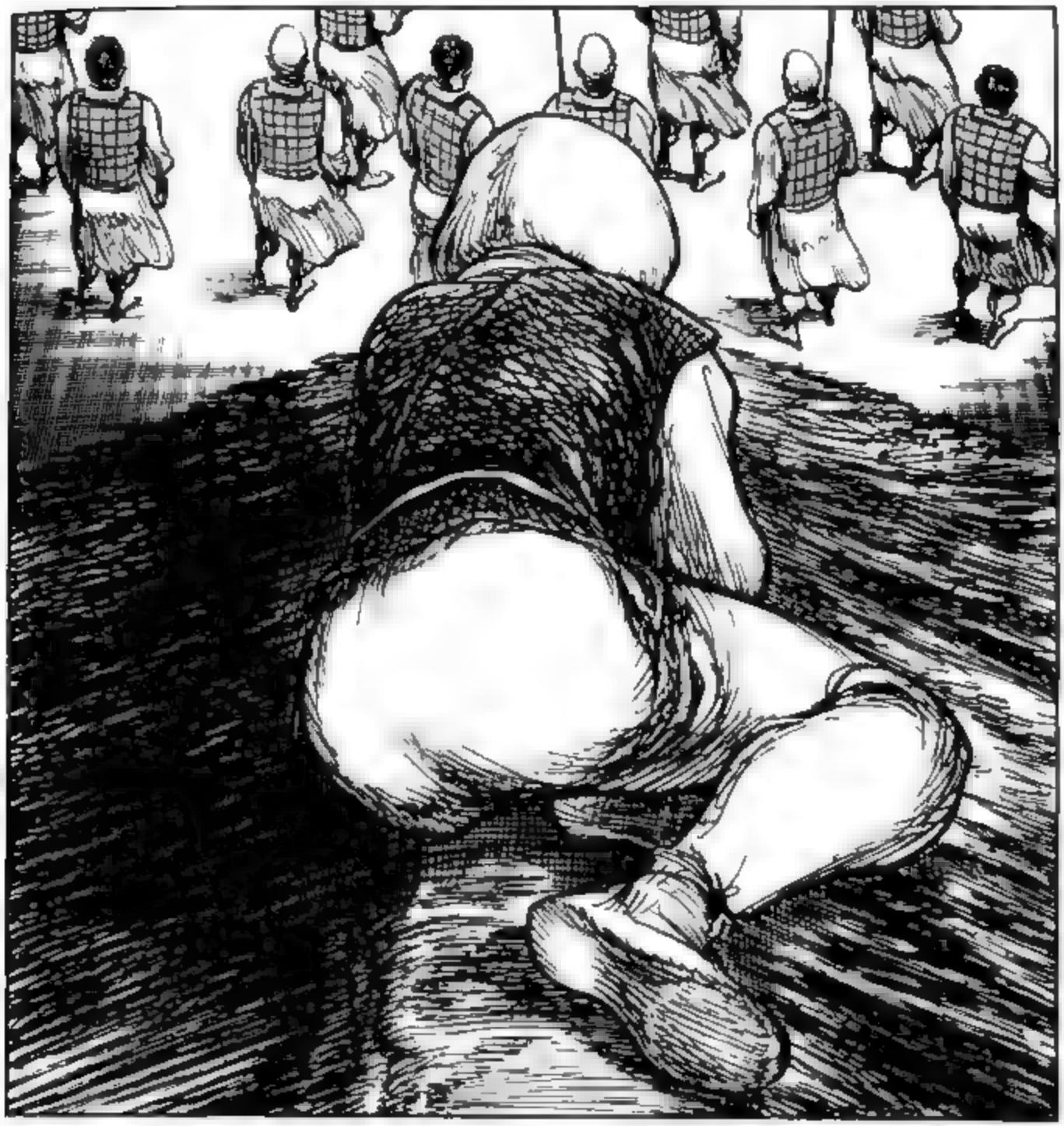
THERE ARE GUARDS ON BOTH SIDES!

THEY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF GUARDS ON PURPOSE, ONLY TO TRAP MORE SPIES

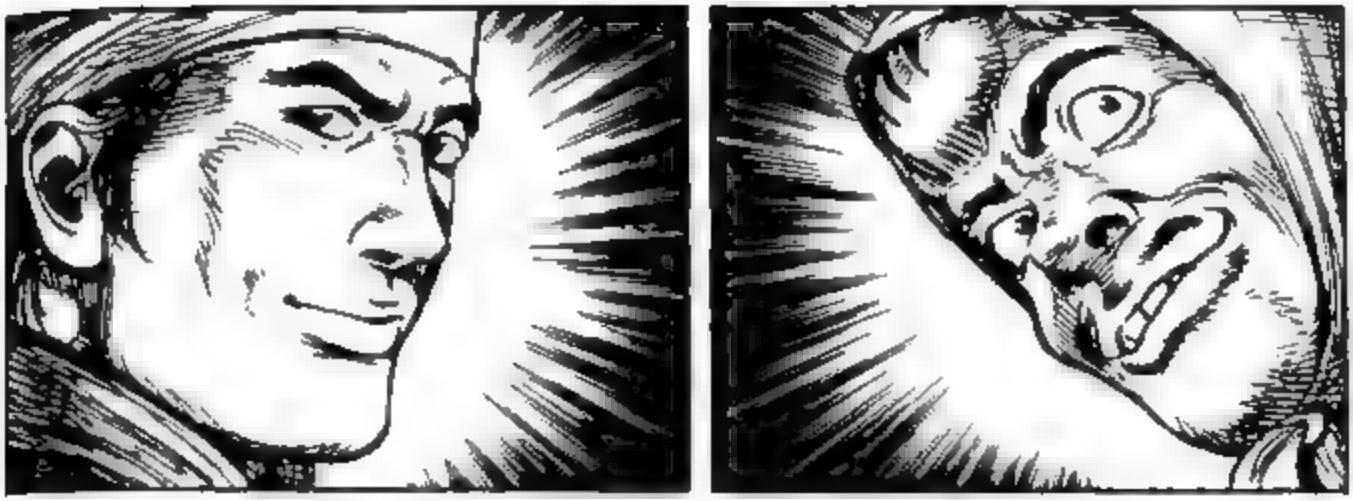
TOMORROW THOSE THREE WILL BE EXECUTED!

LOOK AT THE ROOF!





DZA
SHE'S IN THE SAME SITUATION AS WE ARE
SHE'S IN DESPAIR, SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
AND IF SHE'S CAPTURED ...
I'D PREFER NOT TO SEE HER EXECUTION!
KAKURI!
LET US SAVE HER ...
.....
OKAY!



WANIJA,
GENERAL
OF SHIN'S
ARMY

WE CAN'T KEEP THE GATES CLOSED FOREVER!
ALL SPIES MUST BE CAUGHT WITHIN THESE NEXT FEW DAYS!

TAP
ATAP
TAPA
TAPA
TAP

IHIH
DJJ

PA
TAK
TAP
TA
DZZZ
TAH
PAF
PAF

SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE HER
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE GIRL WHO WAS EXECUTED THE OTHER DAY!

COULD IT BE HER YOUNGER SISTER? PFFT!
HEH
RHEUT
I SHALL INTERROGATE HER, BRING HER TO MY OFFICE!
YES, SIR!

TRUST US
WAAH!
TSAH
IDIOT!
DZA
OH!
SHE'S ESCAPING! CATCH UP WITH HER!

TA TA TA
TA TA TA
TOFF

TA TA TA TA
SHE WENT THAT WAY!
HHH
SHE'S TRULY FURIOUS, WHERE DID SHE GO?
SHE'S UNDER THIS HEAP OF HAY

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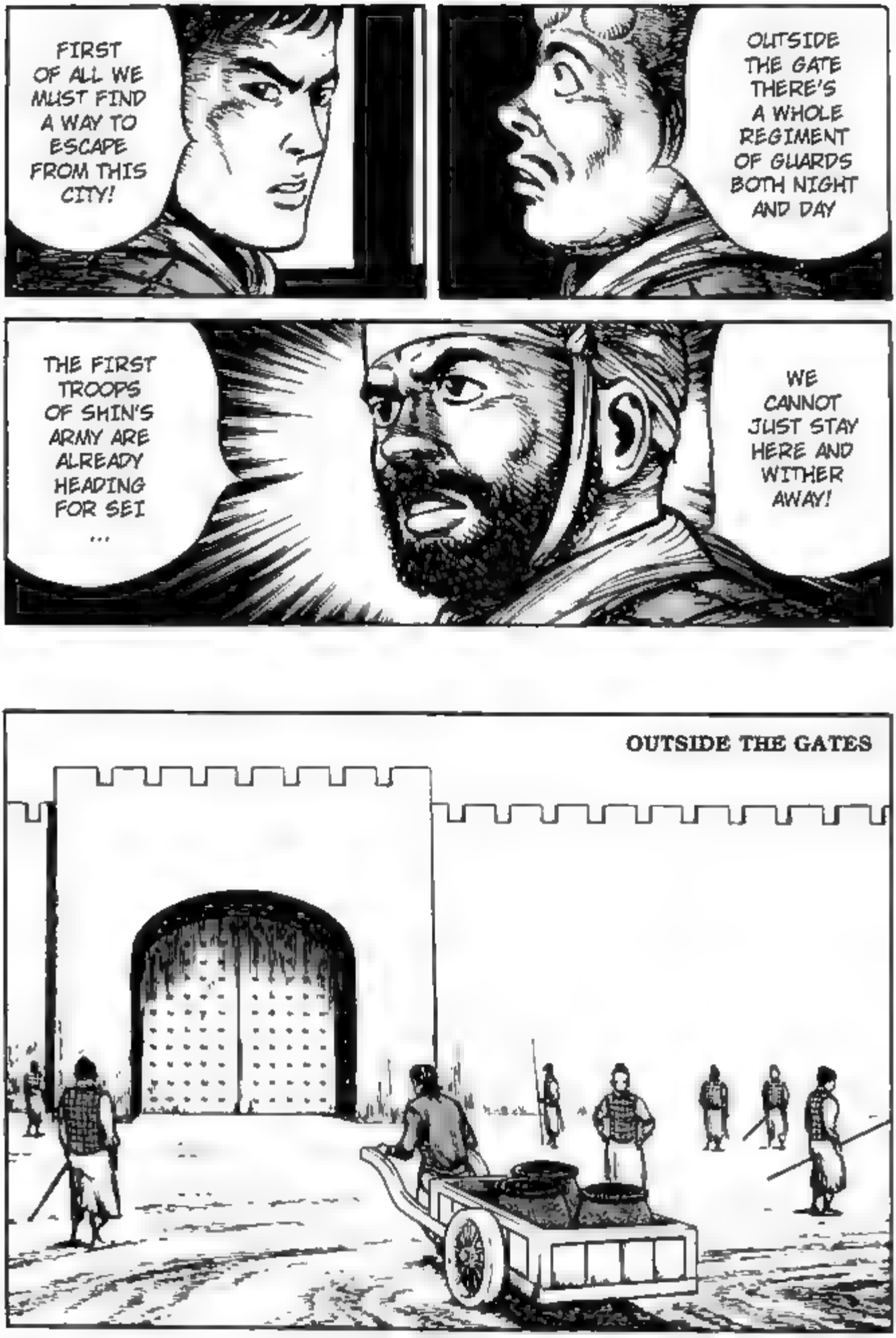
CHAPTER 05
THE OPENING

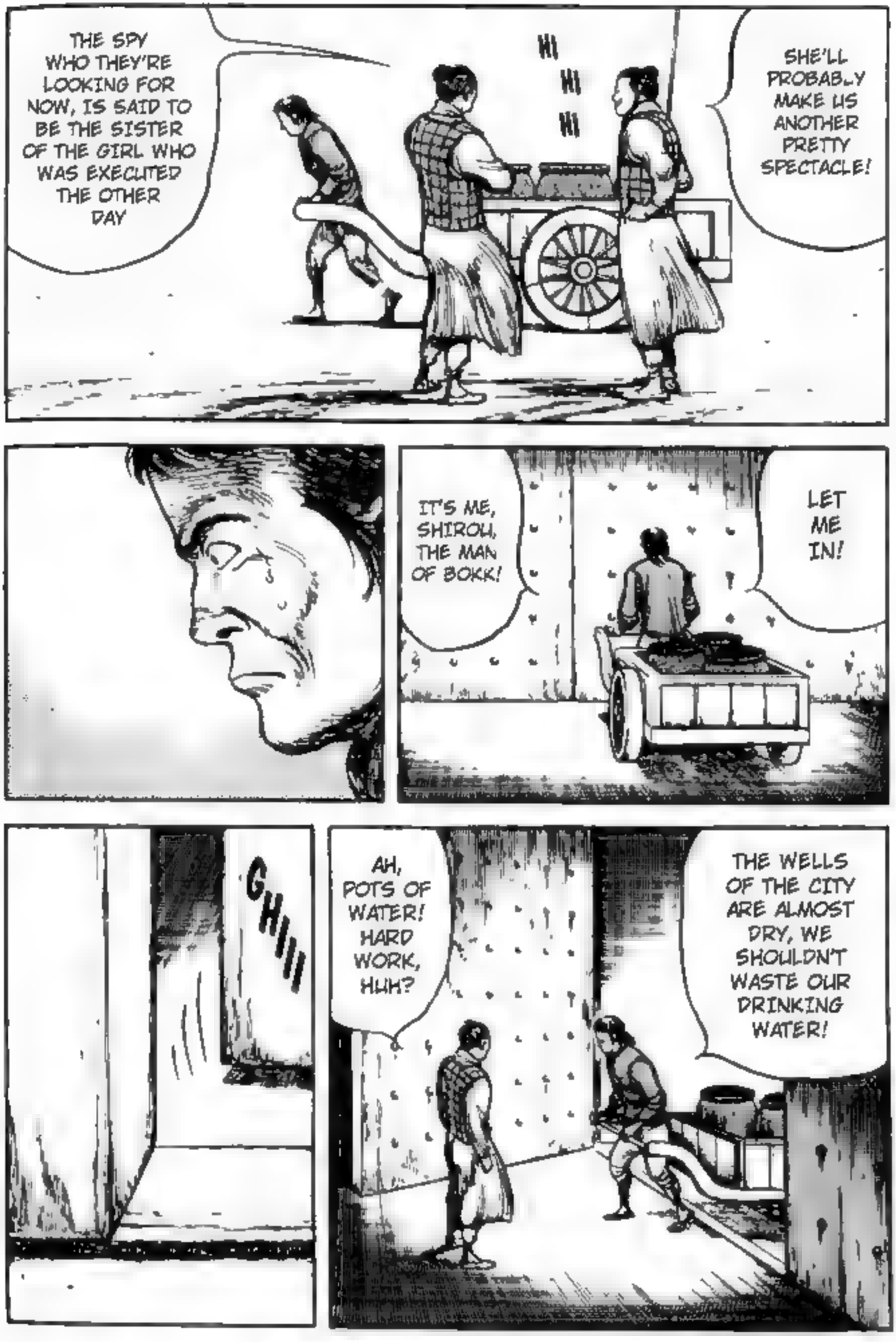
EDITOR, SCANNER, & TRANSLATOR: JON
PROOFREADER: ZYPH

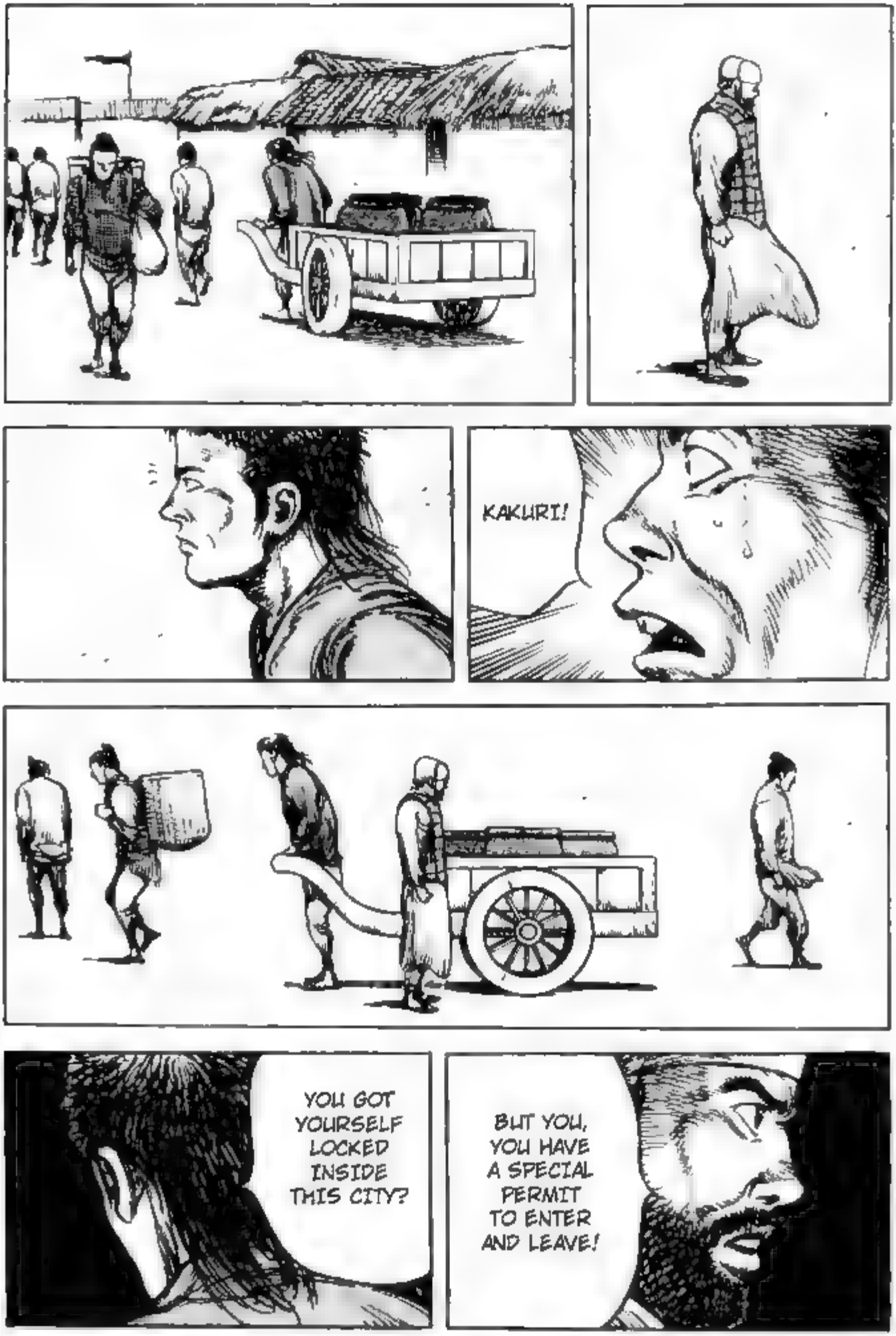
TA
TA
TA
TA
FIND THE SPY!
STOP HER, I WILL MAKE HER LICK MY FEET!
TA
TA
TA
TA

TRUST US!
IF YOU BEHAVE, I WILL REMOVE THOSE ROPES
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
TCHUK
KAKURI'S RETURNING!
DZA

WANIJA IS ABOUT TO ATTACK SEI, THE CAPITAL OF TCHO
THAT OLD GEEZER?
HE'S STILL A FAMOUS GENERAL. IT APPEARS THAT THE KING RELIES TOTALLY ON HIM
THEN, HE'S NOT JUST A CREEPY OLD MAN ...
TO AVENGE YOUR SISTER, WILL YOU COME WITH US TO SEI?


FIRST OF ALL WE MUST FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM THIS CITY!
OUTSIDE THE GATE THERE'S A WHOLE REGIMENT OF GUARDS BOTH NIGHT AND DAY
THE FIRST TROOPS OF SHIN'S ARMY ARE ALREADY HEADING FOR SEI ...
WE CANNOT JUST STAY HERE AND WITHER AWAY!
OUTSIDE THE GATES


THE SPY WHO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR NOW, IS SAID TO BE THE SISTER OF THE GIRL WHO WAS EXECUTED THE OTHER DAY
HI
HI
HI
SHE'LL PROBABLY MAKE US ANOTHER PRETTY SPECTACLE!
IT'S ME, SHIROU, THE MAN OF BOKK!
LET ME IN!
GHII
AH, POTS OF WATER! HARD WORK, HUH?
THE WELLS OF THE CITY ARE ALMOST DRY, WE SHOULDN'T WASTE OUR DRINKING WATER!

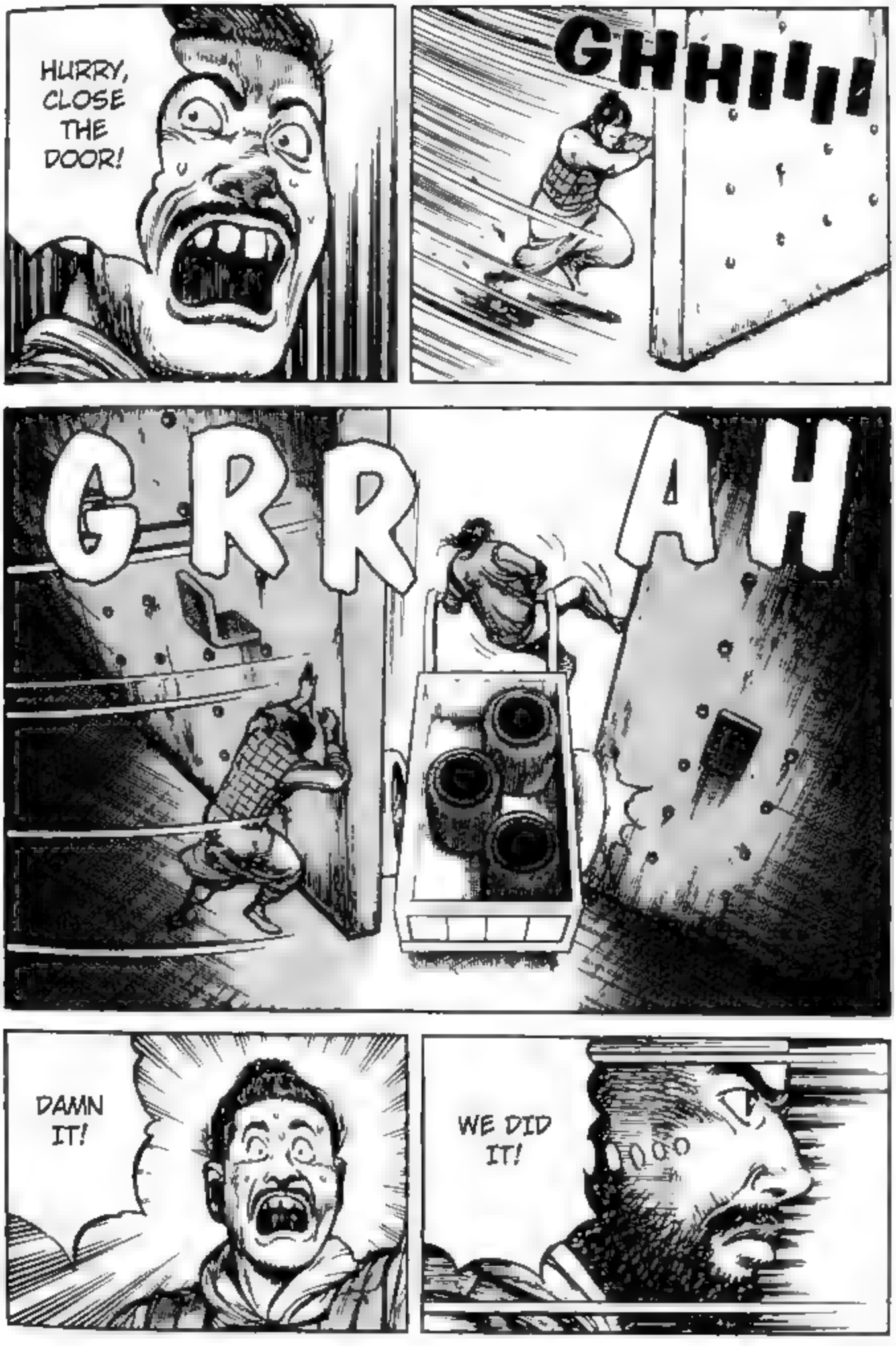

KAKURI!
YOU GOT YOURSELF LOCKED INSIDE THIS CITY?
BUT YOU, YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PERMIT TO ENTER AND LEAVE!

I BRING WATER FOR THE LOCUST LARVAE
THEY RESIST THE DRYNESS WELL, BUT STILL, THE GROUND MUST BE HUMIDIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME
.....
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU LEAVE THIS CITY!
I MUST GO TO DEFEND SEI!
THAT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN
IF YOU INSIST, I WILL CALL FOR THE GUARDS!

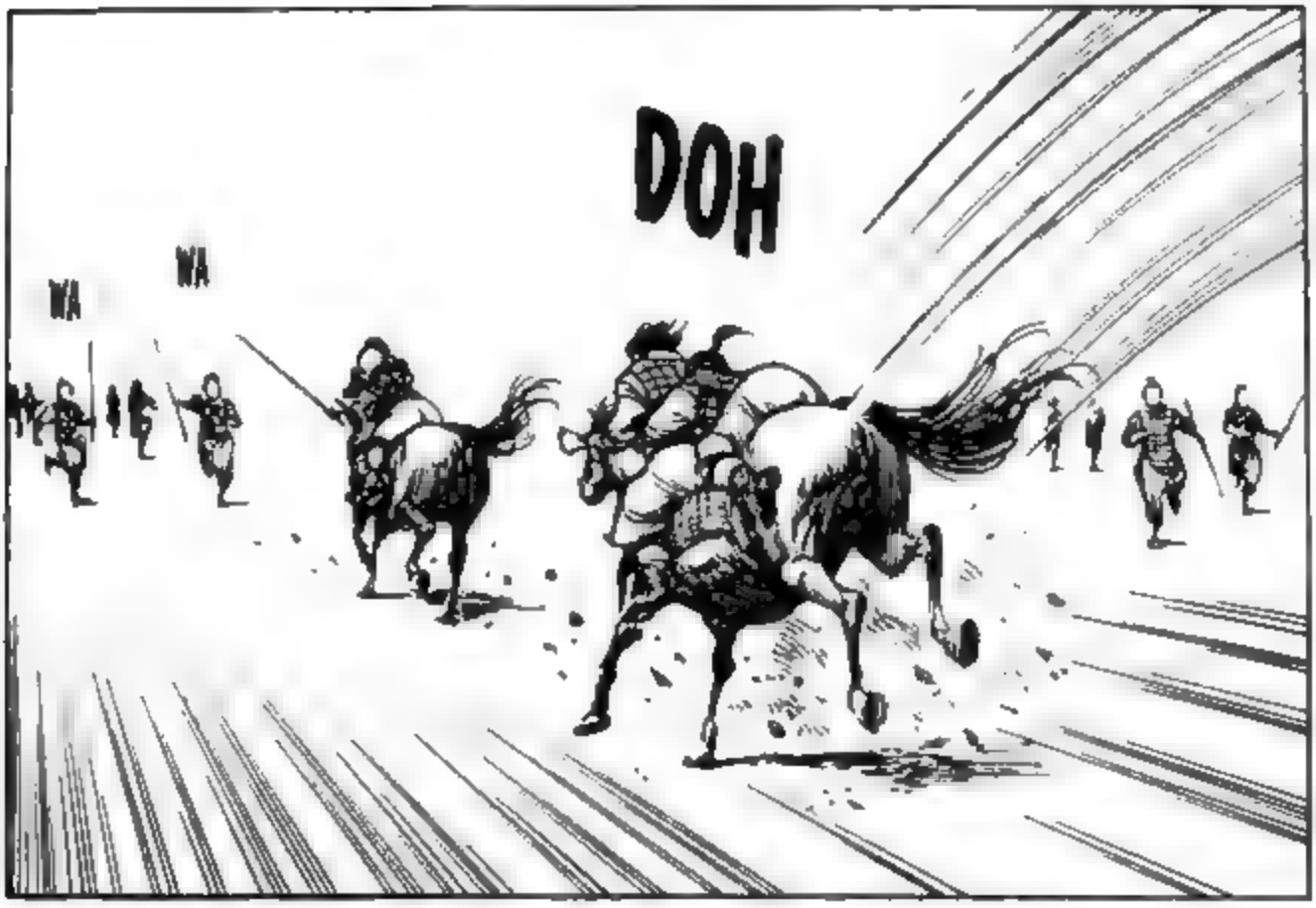
THE FEMALE SPY THAT THEY SEEK IS WITH ME
SO, IT AMUSES YOU TOO, TO SEE A WOMAN BEING BUTCHERED?
IF THERE'S STILL A MAN OF BOKK DEEP INSIDE YOU, THEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU MUST HELP US
AGREED ... TOMORROW MORNING ...

LET'S PUT HARD AGAINST HARD
WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
IF I DIE, I DIE! I DON'T CARE, AS LONG AS IT'S OUTSIDE OF THIS ROTTEN CITY!
EVEN IF YOU ESCAPE WITH US, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SEI!
LEAVE YOUR REVENGE TO US,
YOU SHOULD LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS BEHIND!

MORE POTS OF WATER?
YES!
OKAY, OPEN UP!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
WHAT!

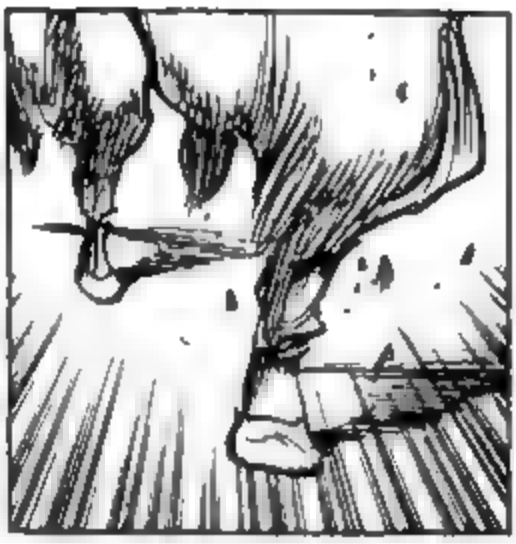

HURRY, CLOSE THE DOOR!
GHHIIII
GRRAH
DAMN IT!
WE DID IT!

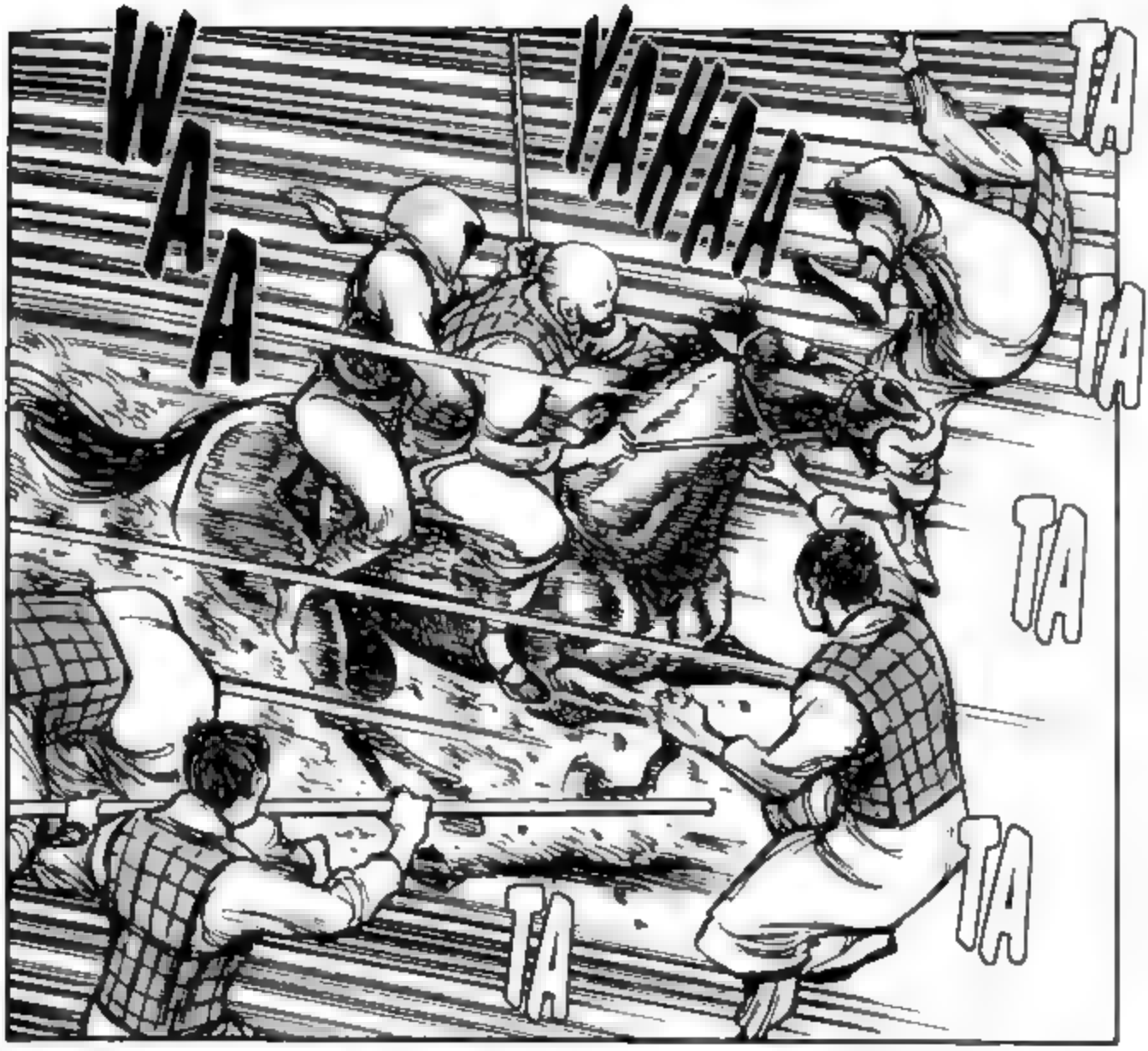
HAH

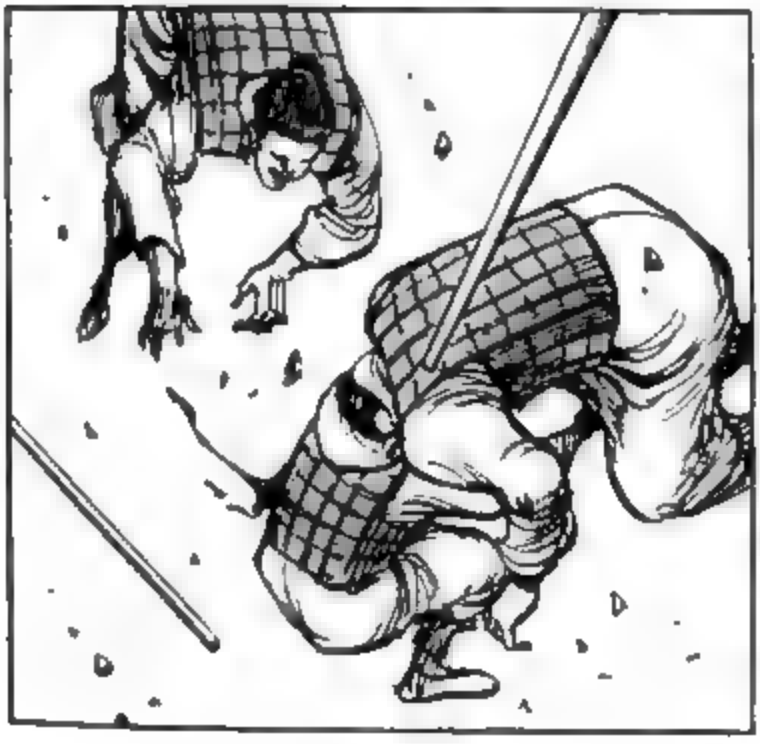

DOH
WA
WA

STAY ALIVE, KAKURI!

WAAH!




WA
A
YAHAA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA



BASTARD!

SHASH

TATA
TATA
TATA
TATA
TATA
TATA
TATA
YEAH! WELL DONE!

MY NAME IS NIMAE, I WILL GO WITH YOU TO SEI!
I WILL AWAIT GENERAL WANIJA THERE!

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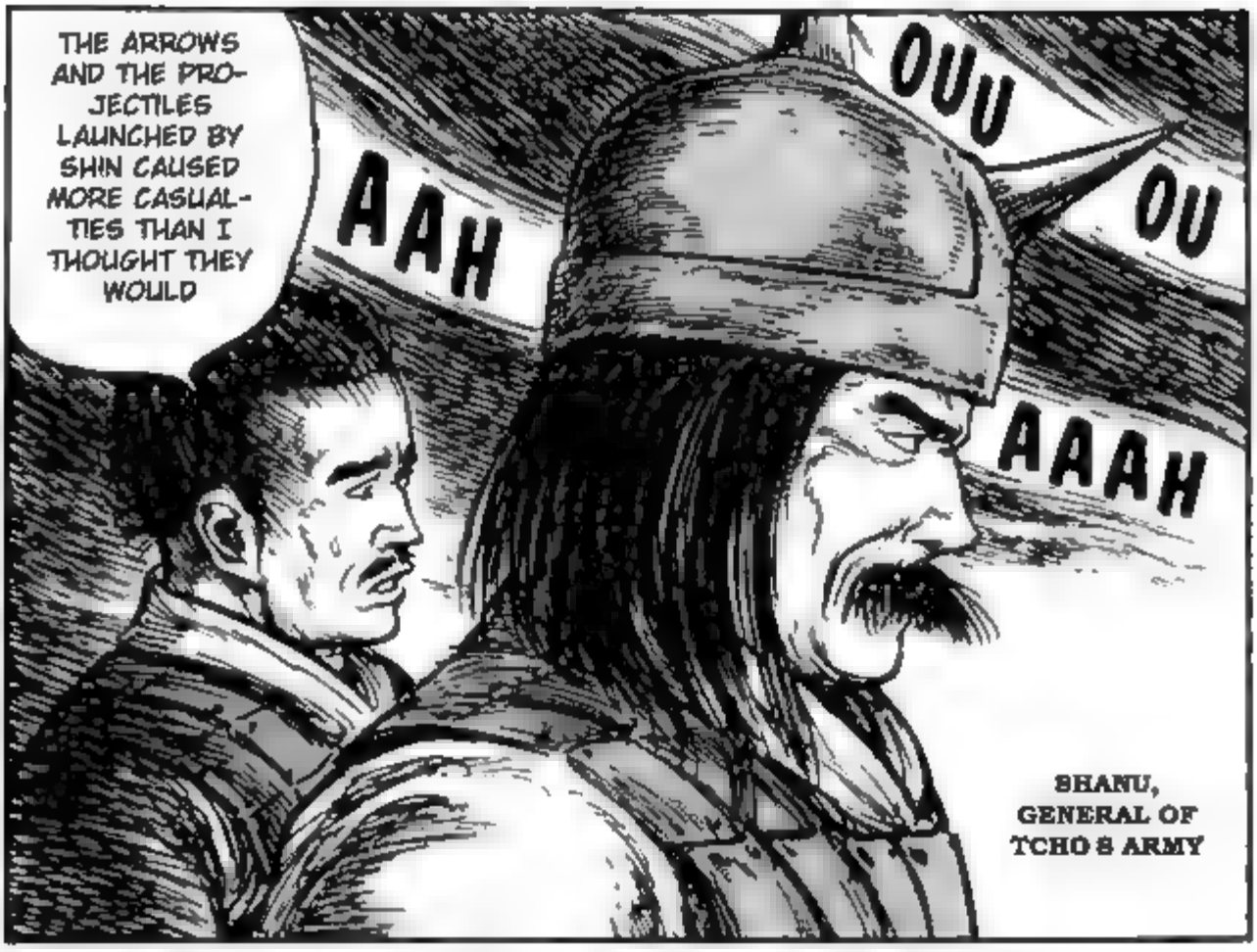
AFTER THEIR ESCAPE FROM SHAIJAN, CAPITAL OF SHIN, KAKURI AND HIS THREE FRIENDS LEFT TOWARDS TCHO. HERE, CLOSE TO THE RIVER WHICH SEPARATES THE TWO COUNTRIES, THEY OBSERVE THE ARMY OF TCHO AND THE LEADING EDGE OF THE ARMY OF SHIN. FACE TO FACE ON THE TWO OPPOSITE BANKS

EDITORS: GAITSU & ZYPH
SCANNER, & TRANSLATOR: JON

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CROSS THE BORDER TO TCHO
KOBU
BUT THE CURRENT OF THE RIVER IS SLOW HERE
YUNJI
DURING THE NIGHT, WE CAN CROSS ON A SMALL RAFT SILENTLY, WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT

KAKURI, WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?
.....
DZA
DZA
EH!
I WILL GO TO CHECK OUT THE ARMY OF SHIN
WOULD ANYONE CARE TO ACCOM-PANY ME?

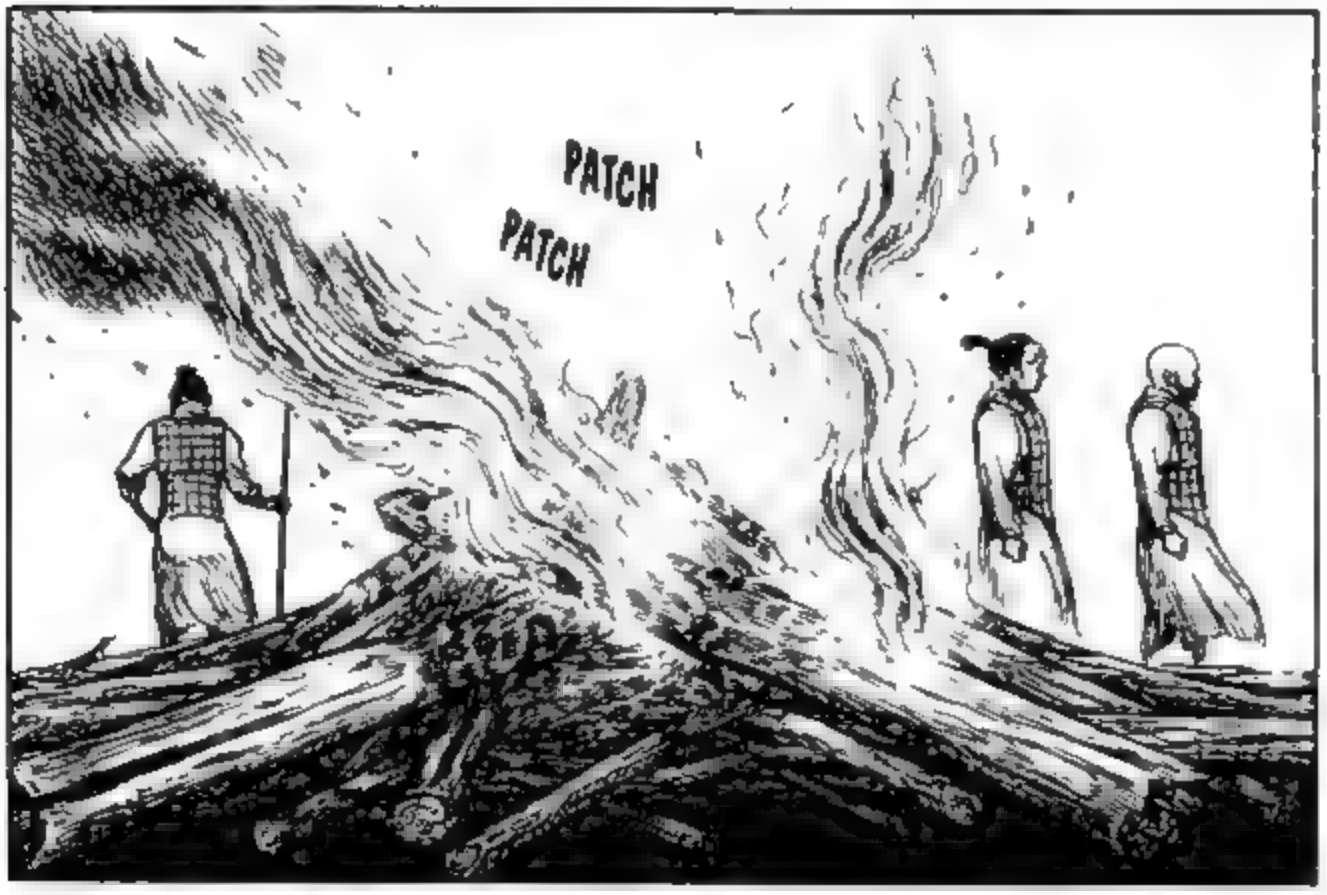
IN THE CAMP OF TCHO'S ARMY...


THE ARROWS AND THE PROJECTILES LAUNCHED BY SHIN CAUSED MORE CASUALTIES THAN I THOUGHT THEY WOULD
AAH
OUU
OU
AAAH
SHANU, GENERAL OF TCHO S ARMY

THE ELITE OF SHIN'S ARMY HAVE RECEIVED THE TASK OF BUILDING A BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER
IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY WILL LAUNCH AN ATTACK!
THE BORDER SHOULD BE DEFENDED AT ALL COSTS!

THE BORDER'S TOO LONG... NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, THEY WILL SUCCEED IN BUILDING A BRIDGE SOMEWHERE
WHAT WE MUST DEFEND, IS OUR CAPITAL, SEI!
. . .

...AND IN THE CAMP OF SHIN'S ARMY



THE WEATHER IS NOT SO COLD, WHY ALL THE FIRES?
DJ DJ
AND THEY GATHER ASH IN BAGS, TO DO WHAT?

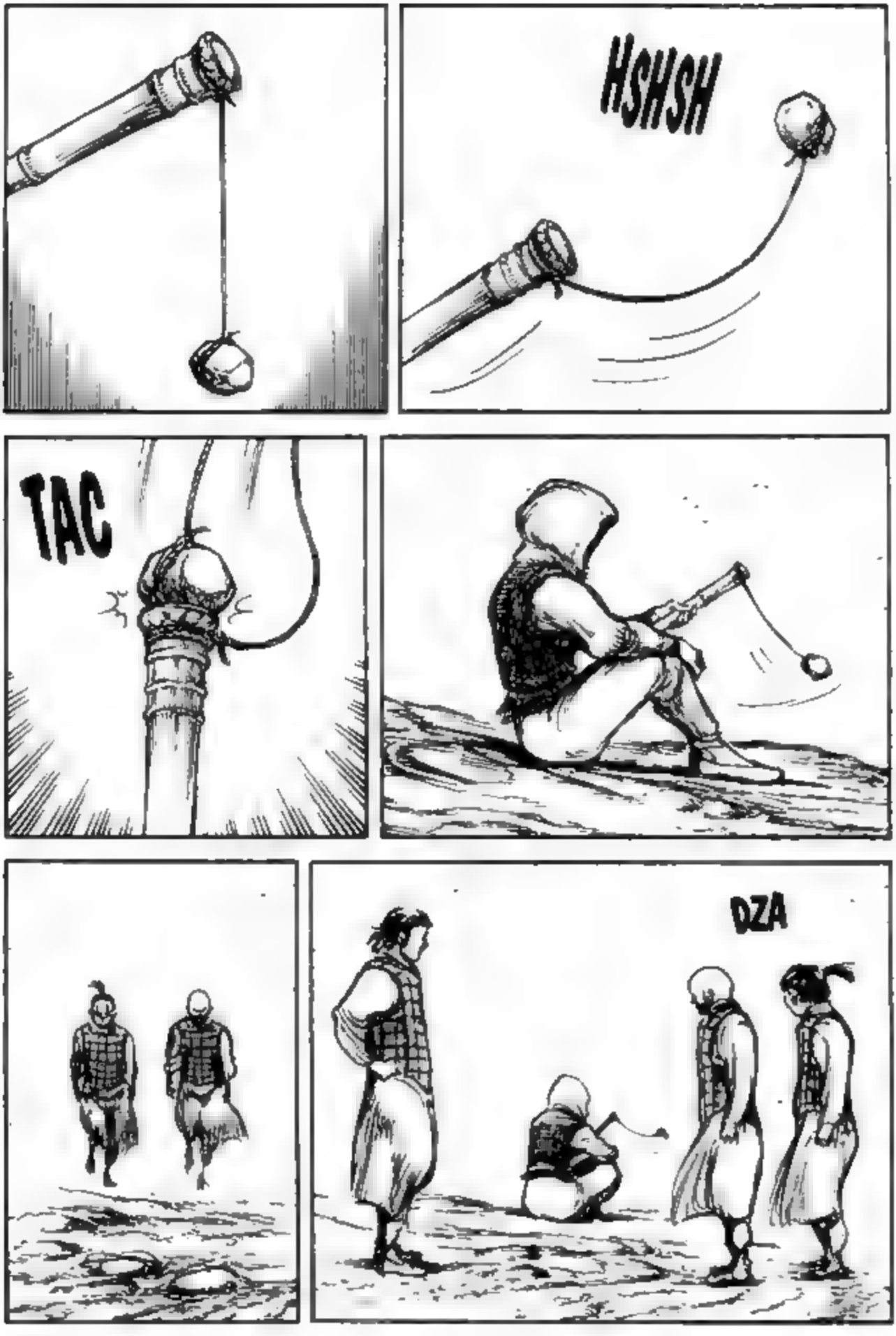
SHSHSH
SHSHSH
SHSHSH
THE WIND BLOWS TOWARDS TCHO
PERHAPS IT'S FOR THIS NIGHT!
?
LOOK, HERE'RE THEIR FOOD RESERVES !

FOOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL WARFARE!
WITHOUT FOOD, THE ARMY OF SHIN CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT RETURN FOR MORE

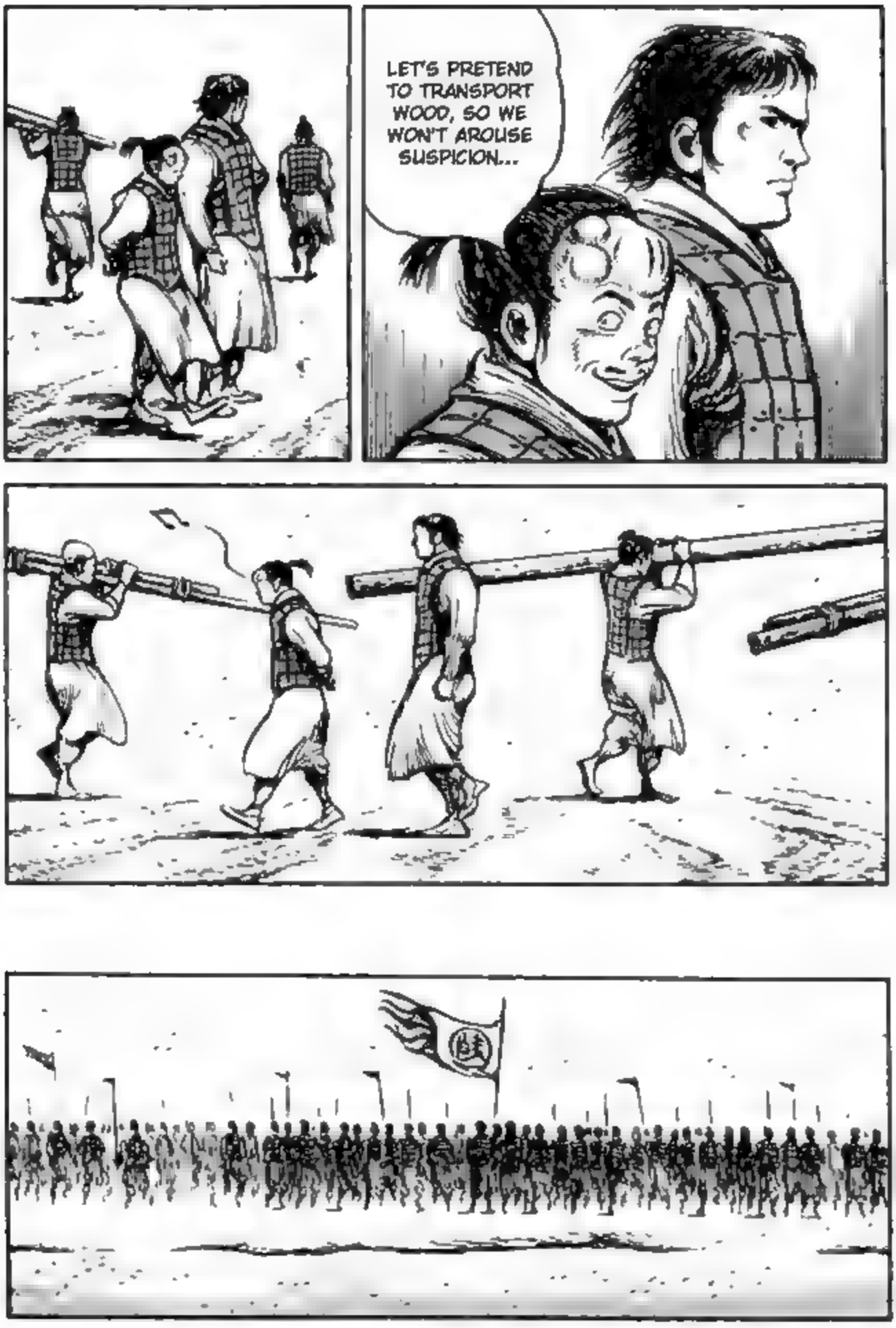
THE COMMANDER OF THE ELITE OF SHIN

HAVE YOU FILLED ALL THE BAGS WITH ASH?
WE'VE MADE FIRES, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ASH YET
WE'LL HAVE THE PROPER QUANTITY BY THIS EVENING

BY THIS EVENING, THE WIND WILL BLOW EVEN HARDER
WE WILL SEND A CLOUD OF ASH UPON THEM AND THEN WE WILL HAVE OUR CHANCE TO ATTACK!
HE HE HE
WITH EYES FULL OF ASH, THE SOLDIERS OF TCHO WILL BE UNABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES!


HSHSH
TAC
DZA

WE SHALL SET FIRE TO THEIR FOOD RESERVES!
NIMAE, YOU WILL ASSIST ME
TAC
AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER, DO NOT DISCARD THE RAFTS,
WE NEED THE WOOD TO BUILD THE BRIDGE!


LET'S PRETEND TO TRANSPORT WOOD, SO WE WON'T AROUSE SUSPICION...

GREAT FOOLS OF TCHO, BY THIS EVENING,
YOU WON'T SEE WHAT'S COMING!
HE HE
TSK TSK
COM-MAN-DER!
UPSTREAM, THERE'S SOMEONE COMING DOWN THE RIVER!
WHO, WHO IT IS?
A WOMAN!
A.. A WOMAN ?

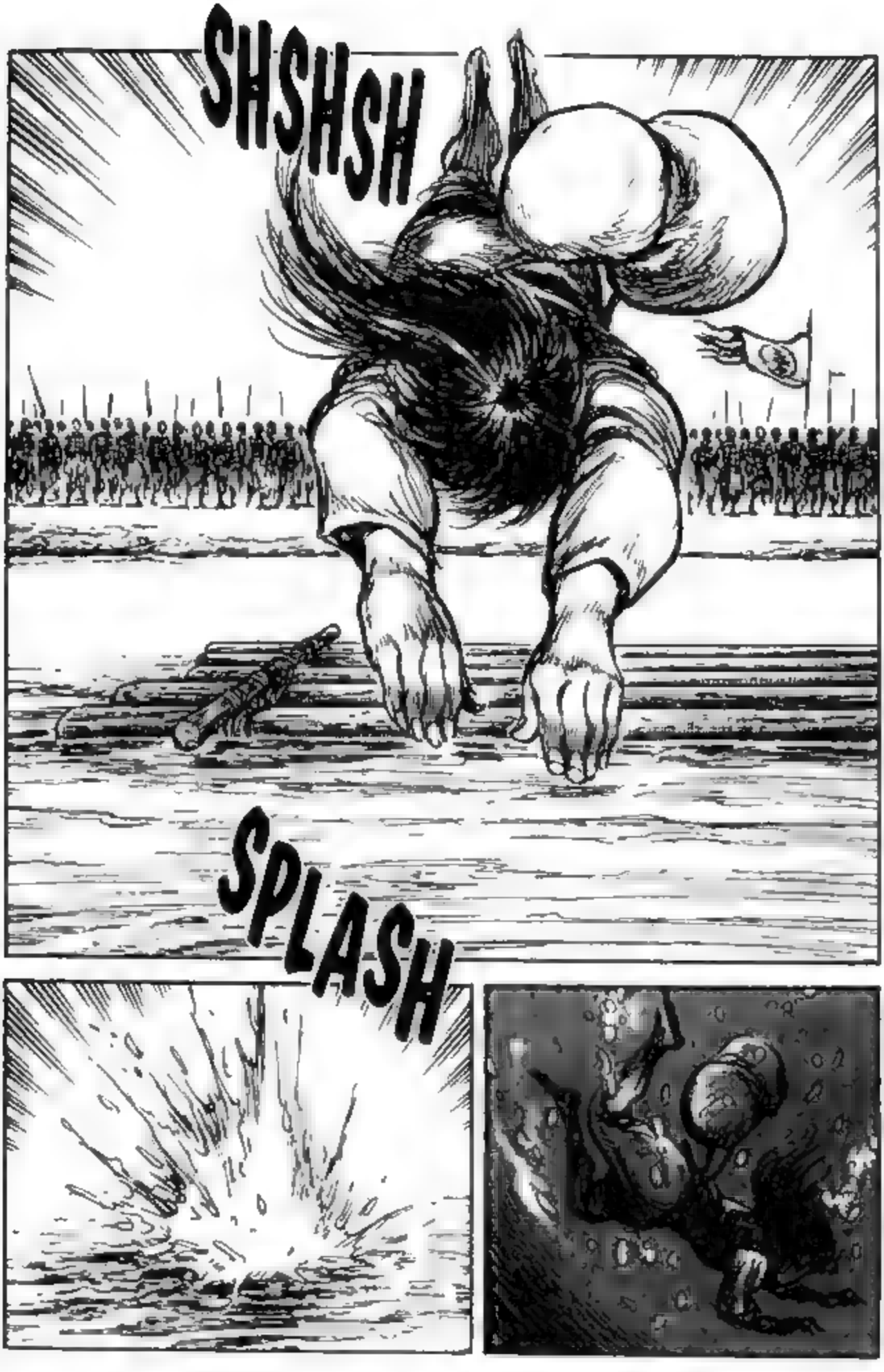
IT IS TRUE, A GIRL!
WAYA WAYA
WAA WA
SU-U-U-U-PER !

WHAT IS THAT?
.....
HUH? WHAT?
A GIRL IN THE RIVER!
TA
TA
TA
WAAA-AAAH !!
TA TA TA

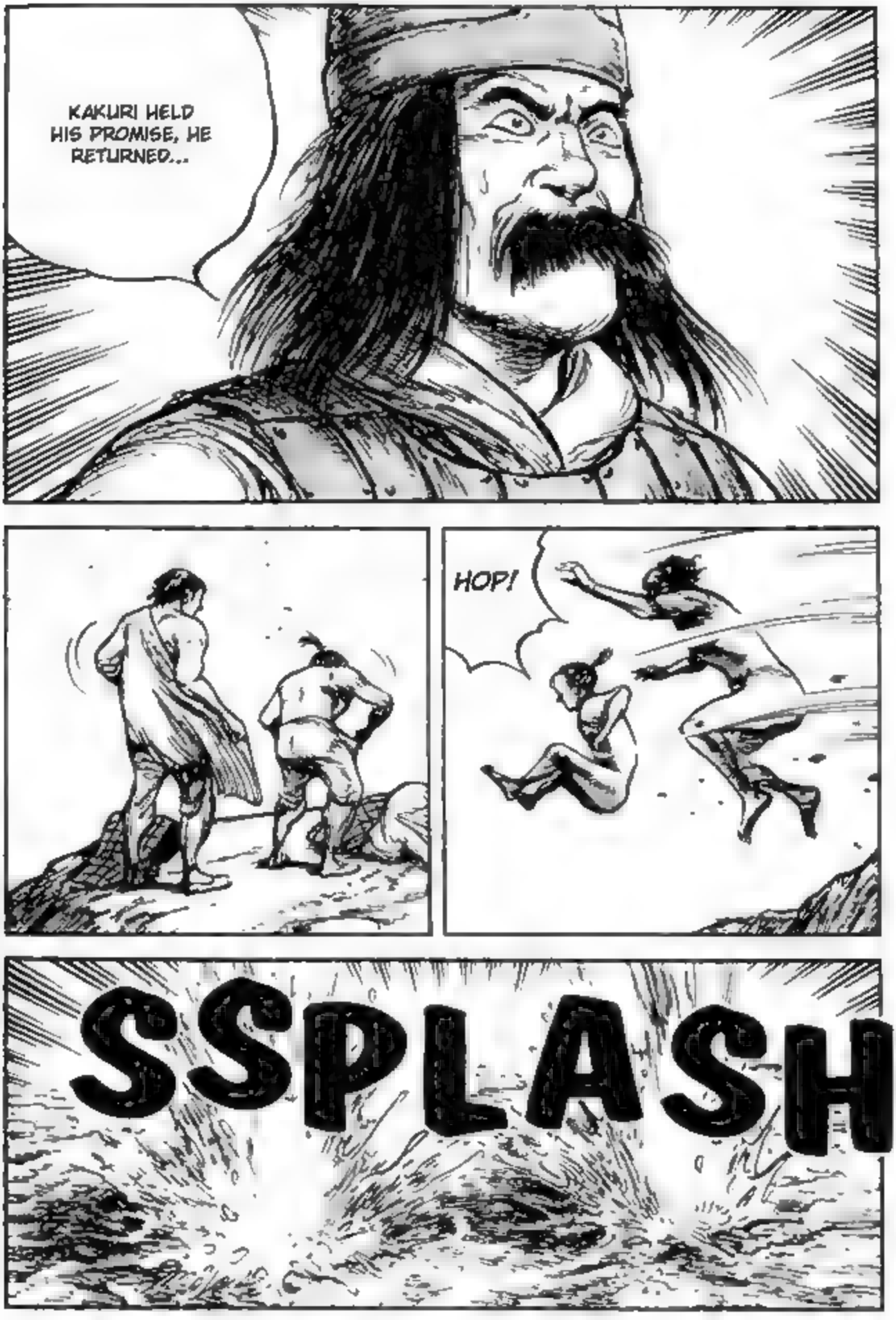
THEY RAN LIKE DOGS
THEY WERE SO EXCITED THAT THEY COULDN'T WAIT TO GO SEE!
GOOD! NOW, LET'S START A FIRE!
DZAH!

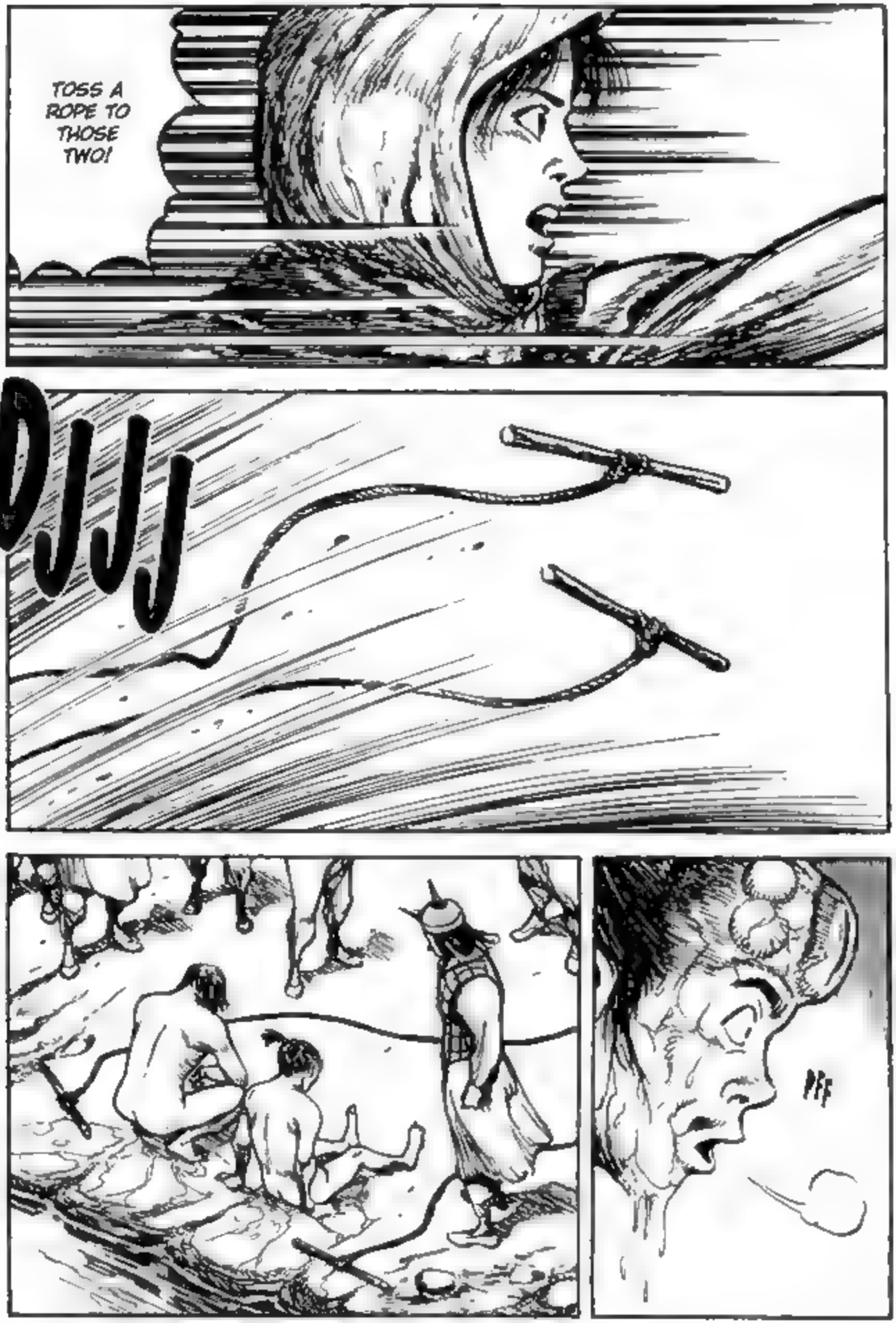
SAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WA
WA
PIIT
PIIT
YOU SHOULD COME HERE
SIXTEEN, SEVENTEEN YEARS? EIGHTEEN PERHAPS...
HE HE
ON FIRE!
THE FOOD RESERVES ARE BURNING!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

TA TA TA TA
EXTINGUISH IT, IMMEDIATELY!
GLUP GLUP
THE GIRL, SHE WORKS FOR TCHO!
PIERCE HER WITH YOUR ARROWS!


SHSHSH
SPLASH

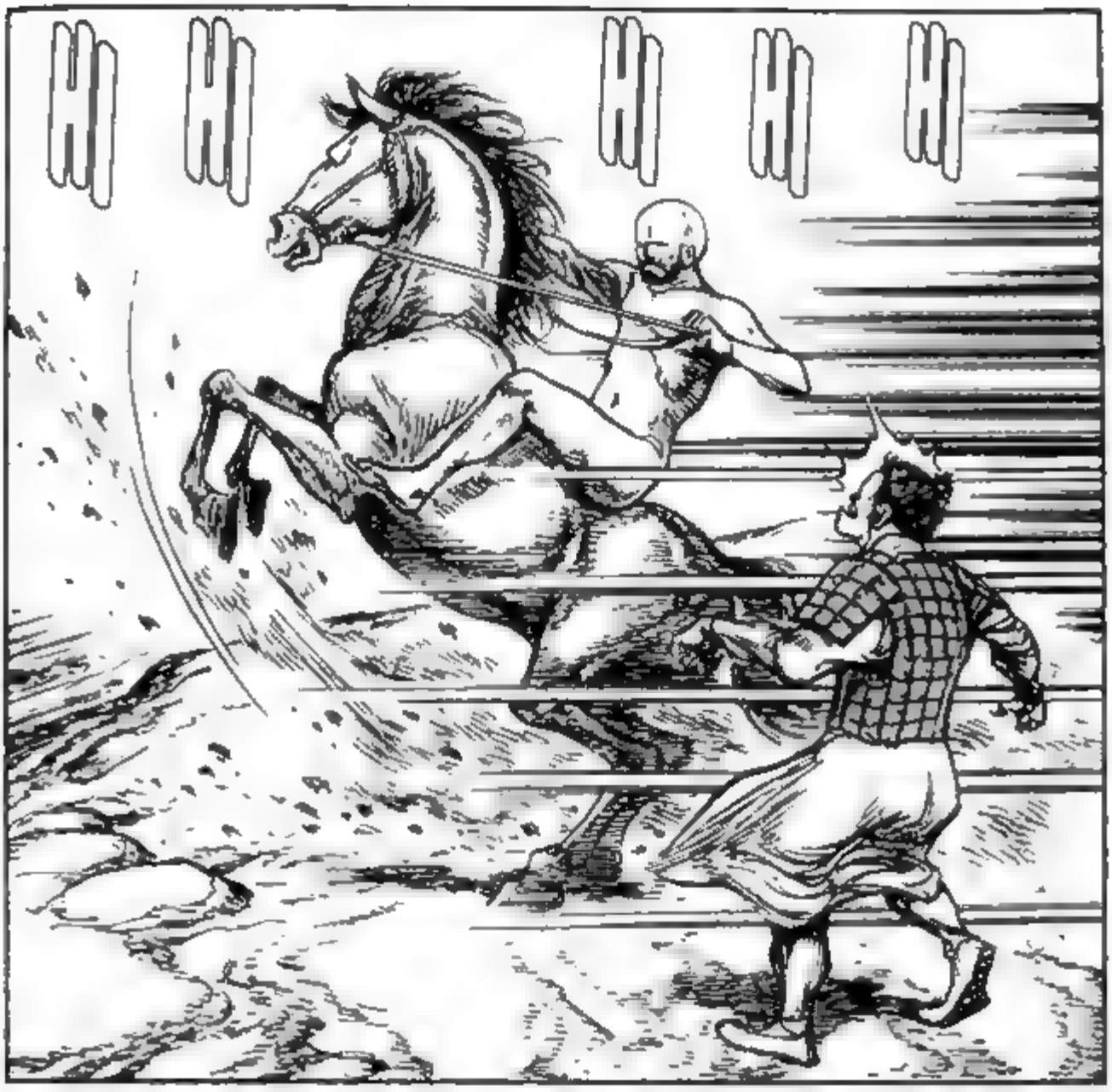
HAH
WITH HER CLOTHES WET, SHE WILL DROWN
TOSS HER A ROPE
LET'S EXTIN-GUISH THE FIRE!
THE RESERVES MUST BE SAVED!
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
HERE'S THE CLOTHES FOR KAKURI AND THE OTHER TWO!
SO IT'S HE WHO WE OWE FOR THIS INTER-VENTION!

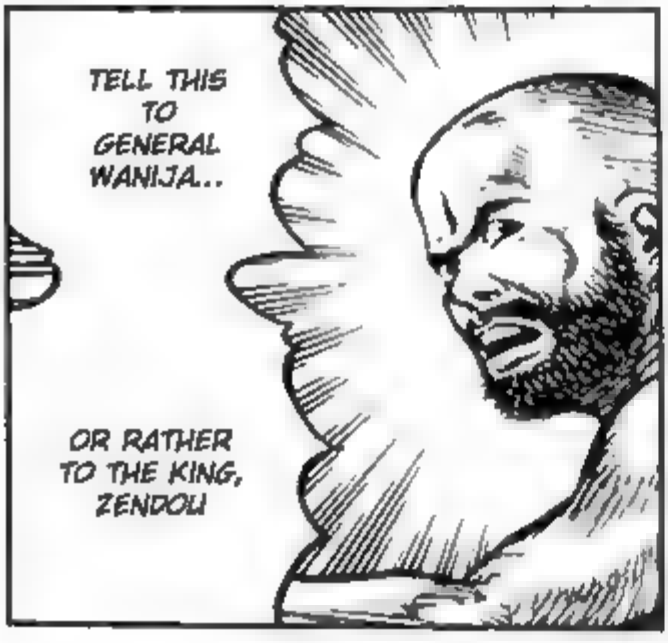

KAKURI HELD HIS PROMISE, HE RETURNED...
HOP!
SSPLASH


TOSS A ROPE TO THOSE TWO!
DJJJ
PFF

HEY, THE MAN WITH THE MOUS-TACHE, LONG TIME NO SEE!
THANK GOD!
BUT WE DID NOT SET FIRE TO IT ALL
WA
WA
WA
NO, IF WE'D BURNED IT ALL, THEY WOULD THROW THEM-SELVES AT US IN DESPAIR
WE JUST MADE THEM GO BACK TO THEIR PREMISES
AND KAKURI, WHAT'S KEEPING HIM?

TA
PA
TAP
TA
PA
TAP



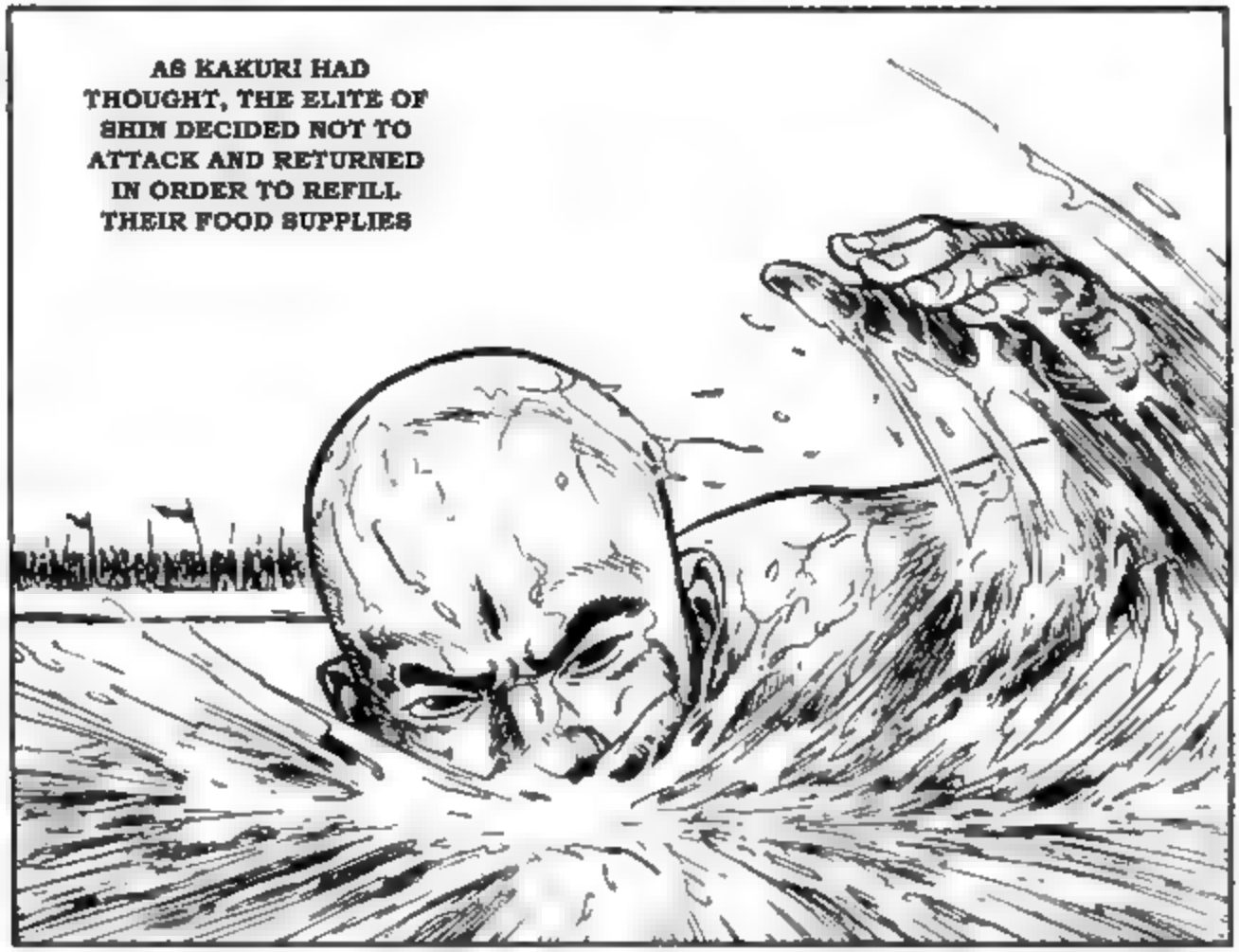

TELL THIS TO GENERAL WANIJA...
OR RATHER TO THE KING, ZENDOU

"KAKURI WILL SHOW HIM HOW A MAN OF BOKK DEFENDS A CITY!"

SHSH

SPLASH

KAKURI, THE MAN OF BOKK...


AS KAKURI HAD THOUGHT, THE ELITE OF SHIN DECIDED NOT TO ATTACK AND RETURNED IN ORDER TO REFILL THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES

CHAPTER 07

THE RARE BIRD

#omanga@irc.mircx.com - thehawks.org #hawks@mircx

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON

SEI, THE CAPITAL OF TCHO

D Z Z Z Z Z

Vvvvv

Vvv

Vvv

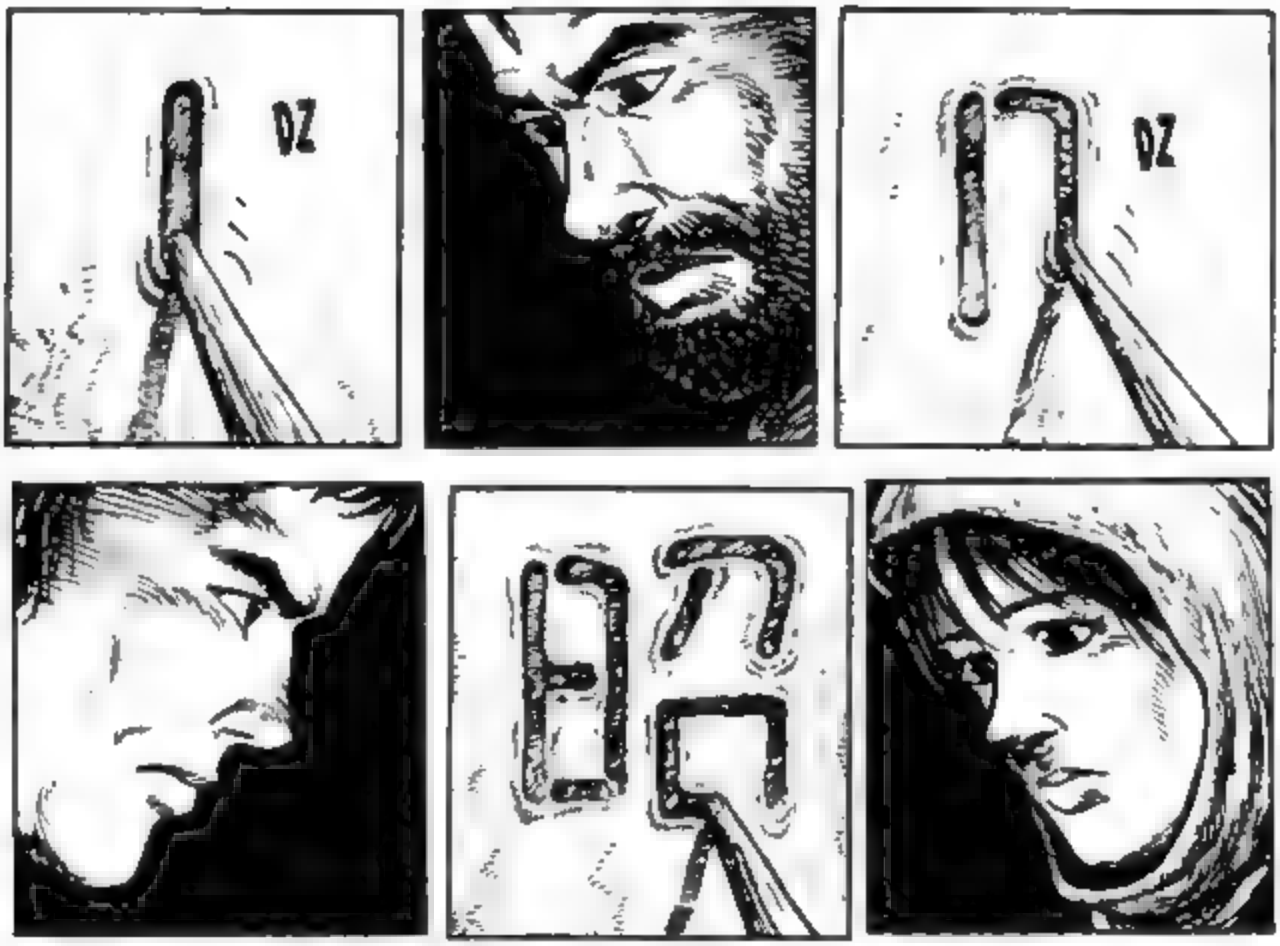
Vvv

YOU'RE SENDING REIN-FORCE-MENTS TO THE BORDER?
SOONER OR LATER, THE BORDER WILL BE BROKEN. THE DAY IT DOES, SHIN'S WHOLE ARMY WILL BE UPON US
IT IS NEC-ESSARY TO QUICKLY REINFORCE THE DEFENSE OF THIS CITY!
I KNOW THAT...
BUT BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO LISTEN TO THE EVENTS OF HISTORY TOLD BY AN OLD MAN,
WHO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL YOU THE HISTORY OF KING ZENDOU
EN
TCHO
SI
GHY
SHIN
YINSHAN
SO

ZENDOU, THE KING OF SHIN, CONCEIVED THE IDEA TO RULE THE SIX KINGDOMS. HE HAS ALREADY CONQUERED KAN, AND NOW HE'S ATTACKING TCHO
BUT IN THE CASE OF TCHO, HE HAS A PARTICULAR REASON TO ATTACK
THE HISTORY IS RATHER LONG, BUT I ASK YOU TO LISTEN TO IT UNTIL THE END
AH, A NEVER-ENDING STORY, SO, YOU DECIDED TO FEED US TO THE LIONS, EH? HIHIHI!

WELL, YOU SIT HERE
HERE?
WITHOUT ANYTHING TO SIT ON?
DZA
DZA
GFF
HAH
HAH
DON'T WORRY, I INTEND TO TAKE YOU DOWN WITHIN TWO ROUNDS!
HAH

GET ON WITH IT THEN!
GENERAL SHANU SAID TO ME:
"THE MEN OF BOKK, THEY LIKE THOSE WHO GREET THEM MODESTLY..."
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE, TELL US YOUR STORY
IT STARTED AS LONG AS THIRTY YEARS AGO...
DZZ



IT WAS DURING THE REIGN OF SHOU, KING OF SHIN. THE CROWN PRINCE WAS HIS SON, LORD ANKOKU. LORD ANKOKU AND HIS WIFE, LADY KAYOU, DID NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN

KING SHOU 昭王

LADY KAYOU 華陽夫人

LORD ANKOKU 安国君

BUT LORD ANKOKU HAD MORE THAN TWENTY CHILDREN OF HIS OWN

CONCEIVED BY HIS MANY CONCUBINES

MORE THAN TWENTY?
安国君
DZZ
夏姫 PRINCESS KA
安国君 LORD ANKOKU
丁 異人 IJIN
華陽夫人 LADY KAYOU
ONE OF THEM, PRINCESS KA, HAD A SON NAMED IJIN, WHOM SHE SENT TO SEI AS A "HININ", A MAN OF ROYAL BLOOD SENT AS A GIFT TO A FOREIGN CAPITAL

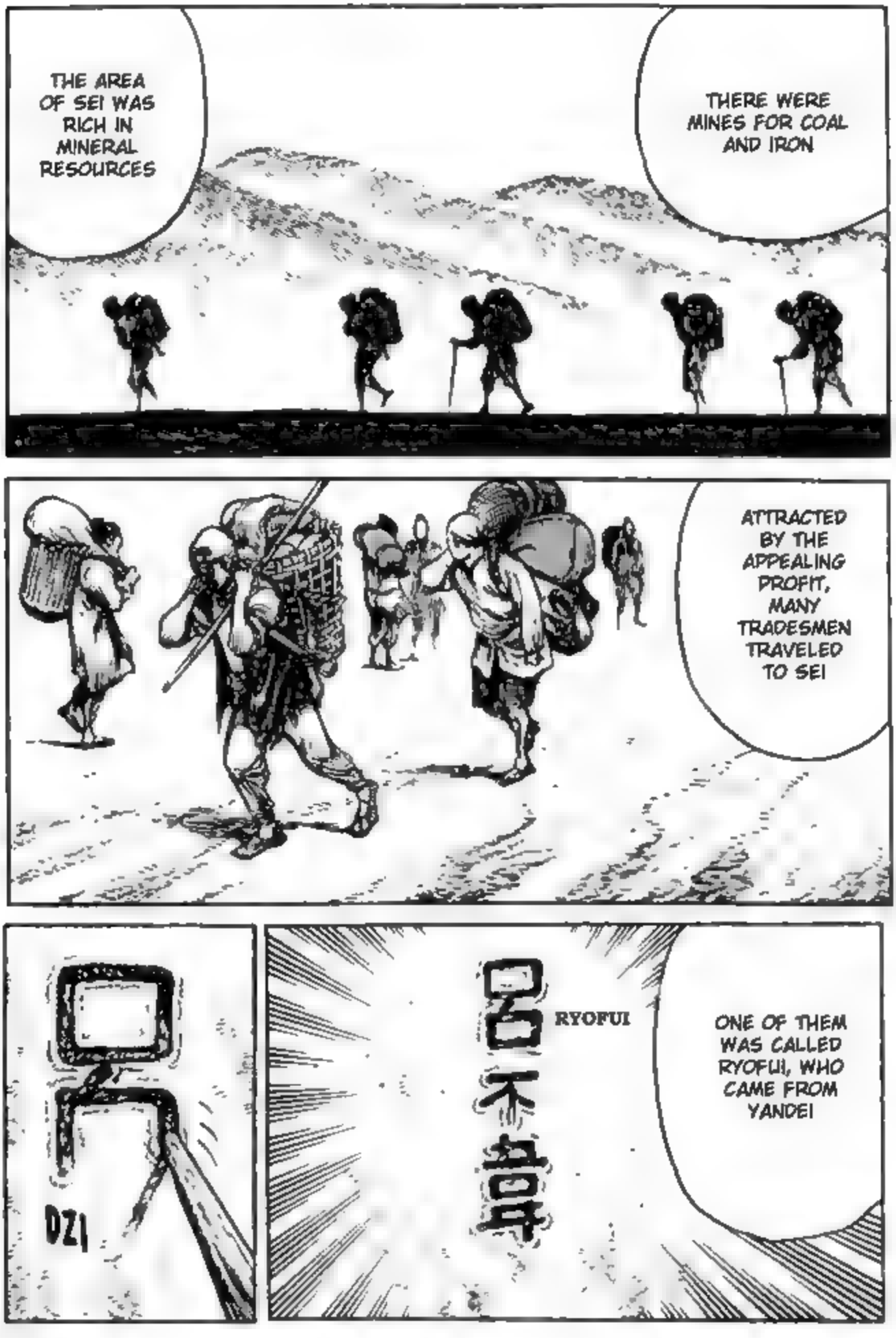
KING SHOU DID NOT LIKE THAT PRINCESS KA GAVE AWAY HIS SON LIKE A HOSTAGE
THOUGH OF ROYAL BLOOD, IJIN COULD IN NO CASE HOPE TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM
IJIN CAME TO SEI AS A "HININ" LIVING A MISERABLE LIFE. HE HAD NO WAY OF LIVING A DECENT LIFE

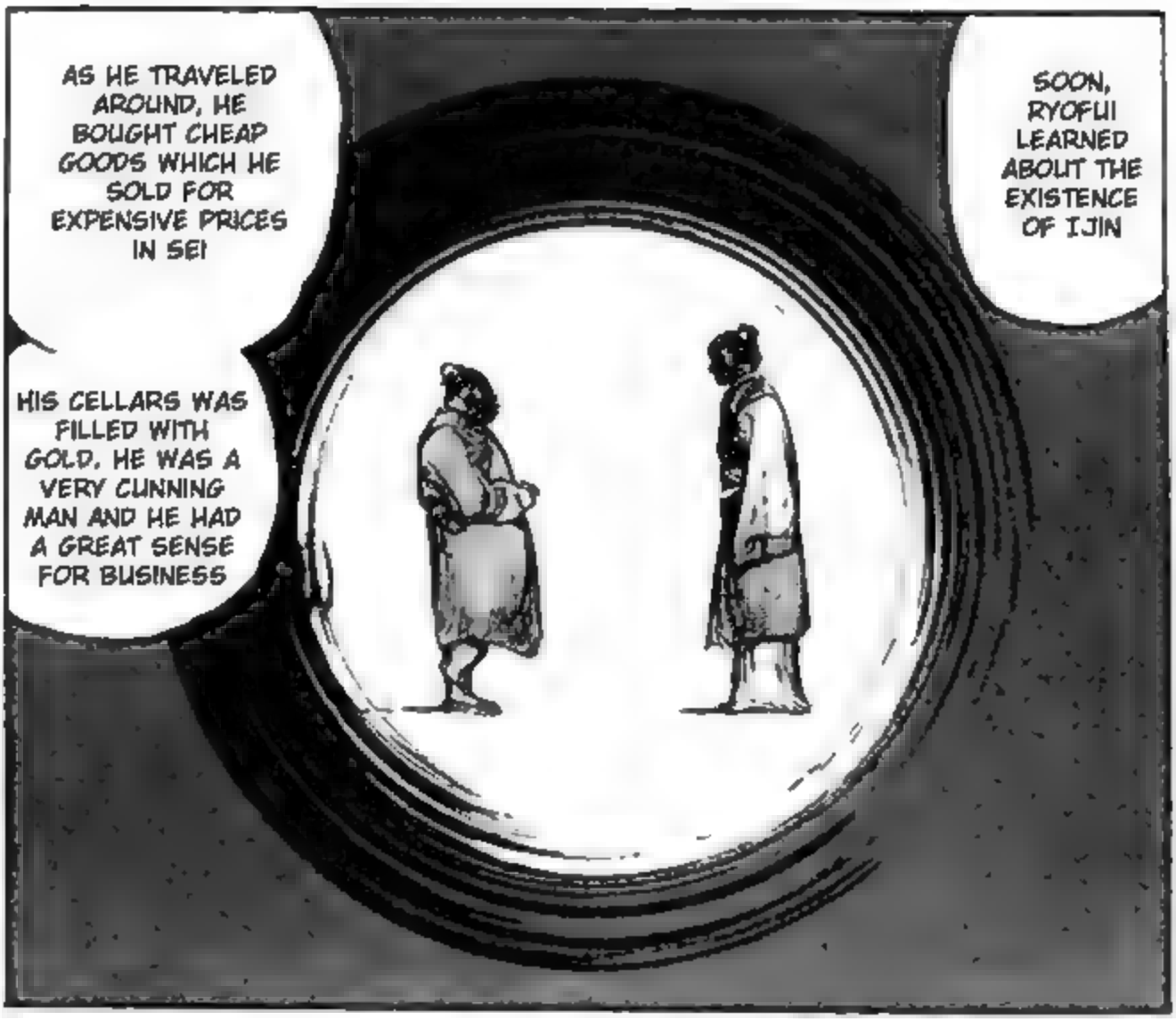
A "HININ", IN OTHER WORDS, WAS A HOSTAGE. SINCE THE TIME KNOWN AS "SPRING AND AUTUMN" (777 TO 403 B.C.) TO FORTIFY THEIR FOREIGN RELATIONS, THE KINGS EXCHANGED IMPORTANT PERSONS, OFTEN OF ROYAL BLOOD. IT WAS A DEM-ONSTRATION OF THEIR CONFIDENCE.

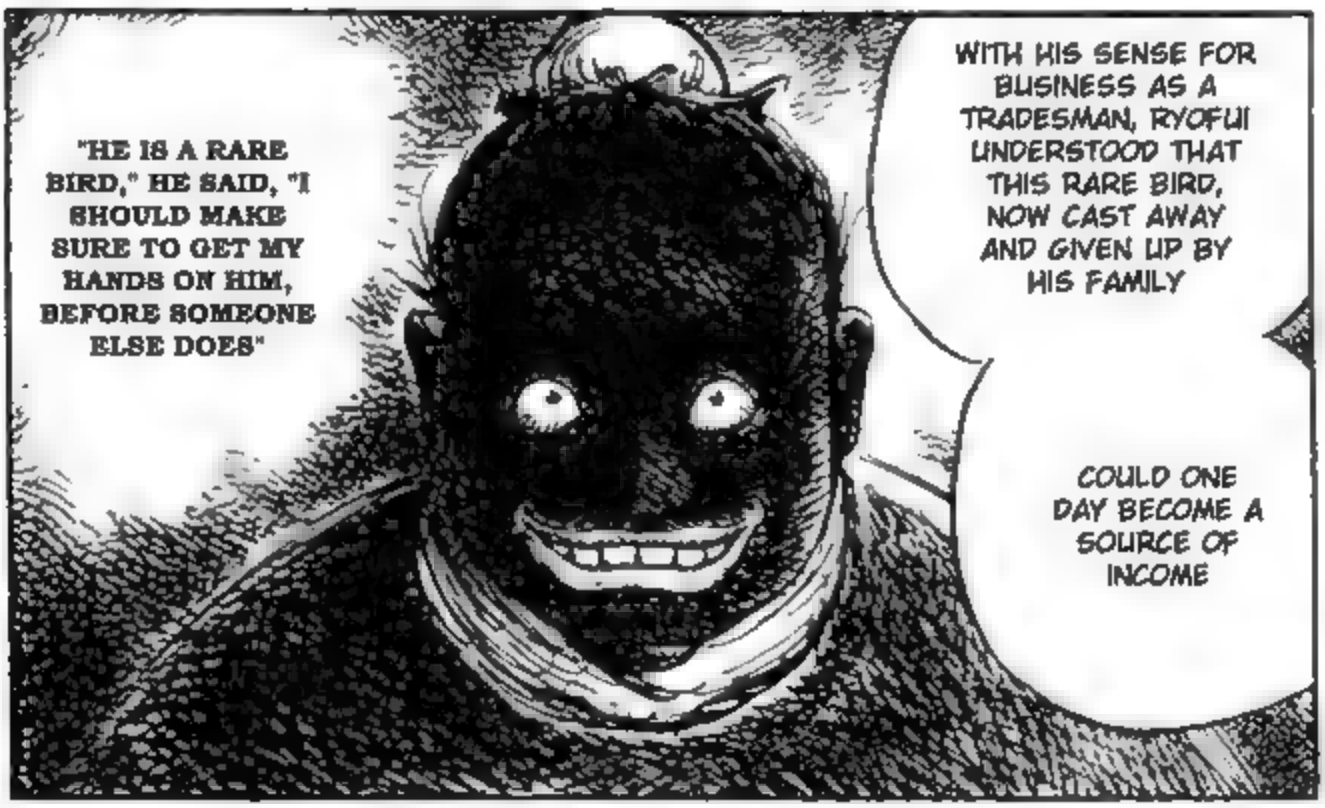
LATER, AT THE TIME OF THE BATTLE OF THE KINGDOMS (402 TO 231 B.C.) IT HAD BECAME NOTHING MORE THAN AN OLD HABIT. THE KINGS ONLY SENT THEIR BASTARDS GIVEN BIRTH BY CONCUBINES OF A LOWER STATUS.

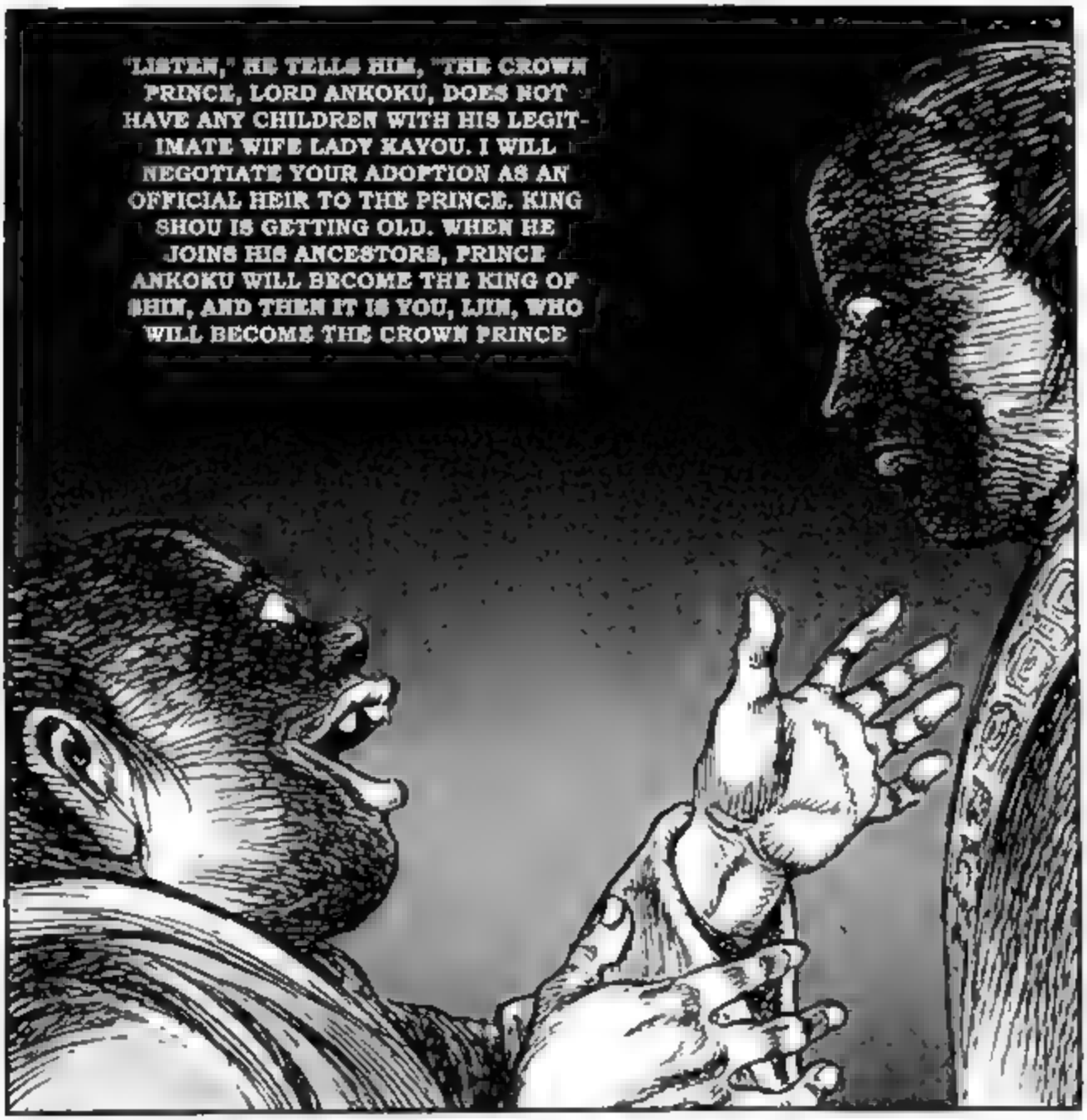
THEN, SHIN SAVAGELY ATTACKED TCHO

IJIN WAS WELL AWARE THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT THERE ONLY TO FOOL THE PEOPLE OF TCHO INTO TRUSTING SHIN

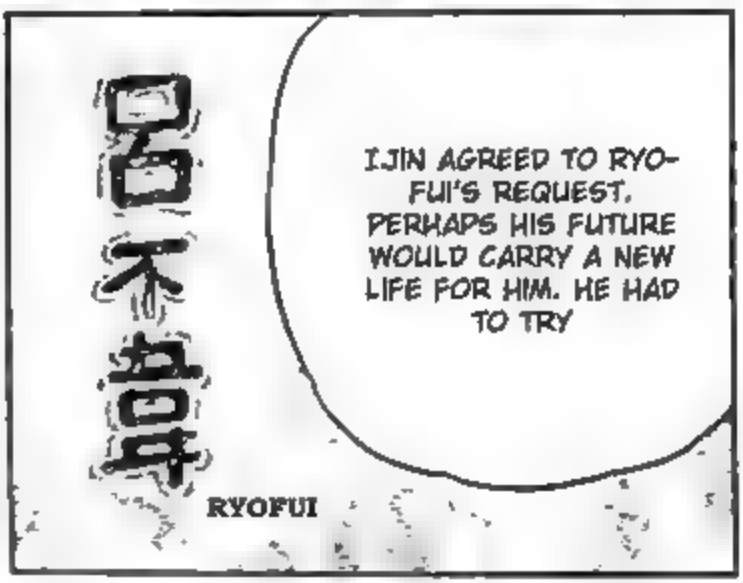

THE AREA OF SEI WAS RICH IN MINERAL RESOURCES
THERE WERE MINES FOR COAL AND IRON
ATTRACTED BY THE APPEALING PROFIT, MANY TRADESMEN TRAVELED TO SEI
DZI
呂不韋
RYOFUI
ONE OF THEM WAS CALLED RYOFUI, WHO CAME FROM YANDEI

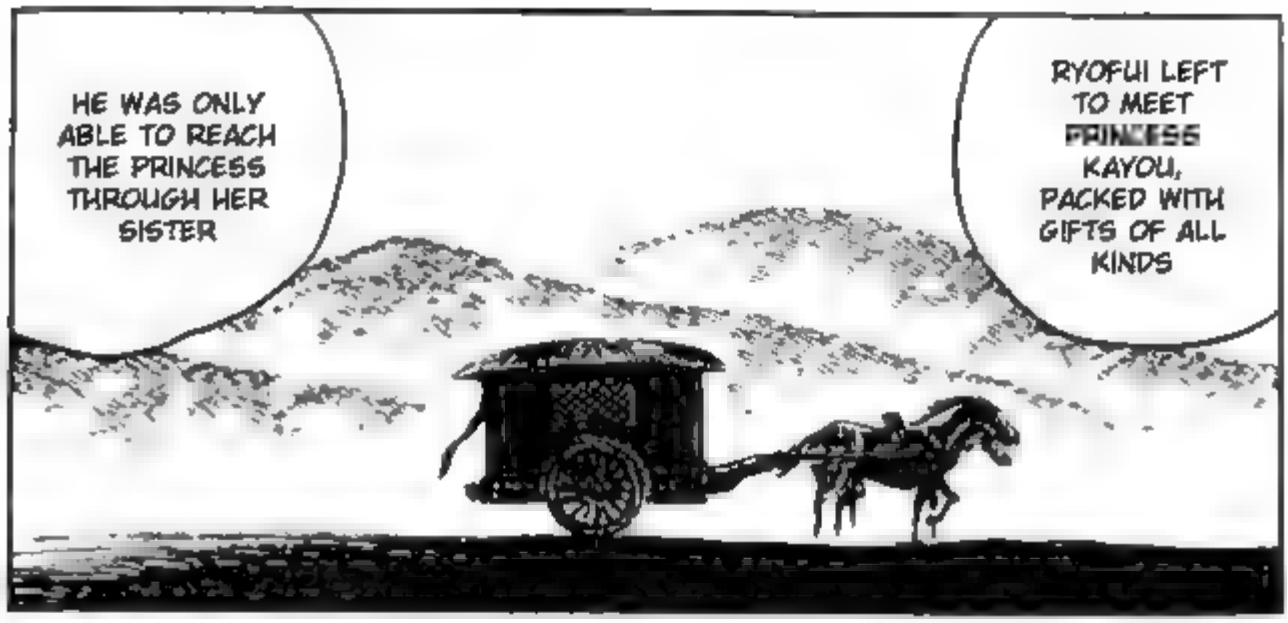

AS HE TRAVELED AROUND, HE BOUGHT CHEAP GOODS WHICH HE SOLD FOR EXPENSIVE PRICES IN SEI
HIS CELLARS WAS FILLED WITH GOLD. HE WAS A VERY CUNNING MAN AND HE HAD A GREAT SENSE FOR BUSINESS
SOON, RYOFUI LEARNED ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF IJIN


"HE IS A RARE BIRD," HE SAID, "I SHOULD MAKE SURE TO GET MY HANDS ON HIM, BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES"
WITH HIS SENSE FOR BUSINESS AS A TRADESMAN, RYOFUI UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS RARE BIRD, NOW CAST AWAY AND GIVEN UP BY HIS FAMILY
COULD ONE DAY BECOME A SOURCE OF INCOME


"LISTEN," HE TELLS HIM, "THE CROWN PRINCE, LORD ANKOKU, DOES NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN WITH HIS LEGITIMATE WIFE LADY KAYOU. I WILL NEGOTIATE YOUR ADOPTION AS AN OFFICIAL HEIR TO THE PRINCE. KING SHOU IS GETTING OLD. WHEN HE JOINS HIS ANCESTORS, PRINCE ANKOKU WILL BECOME THE KING OF SHIN, AND THEN IT IS YOU, IJIN, WHO WILL BECOME THE CROWN PRINCE

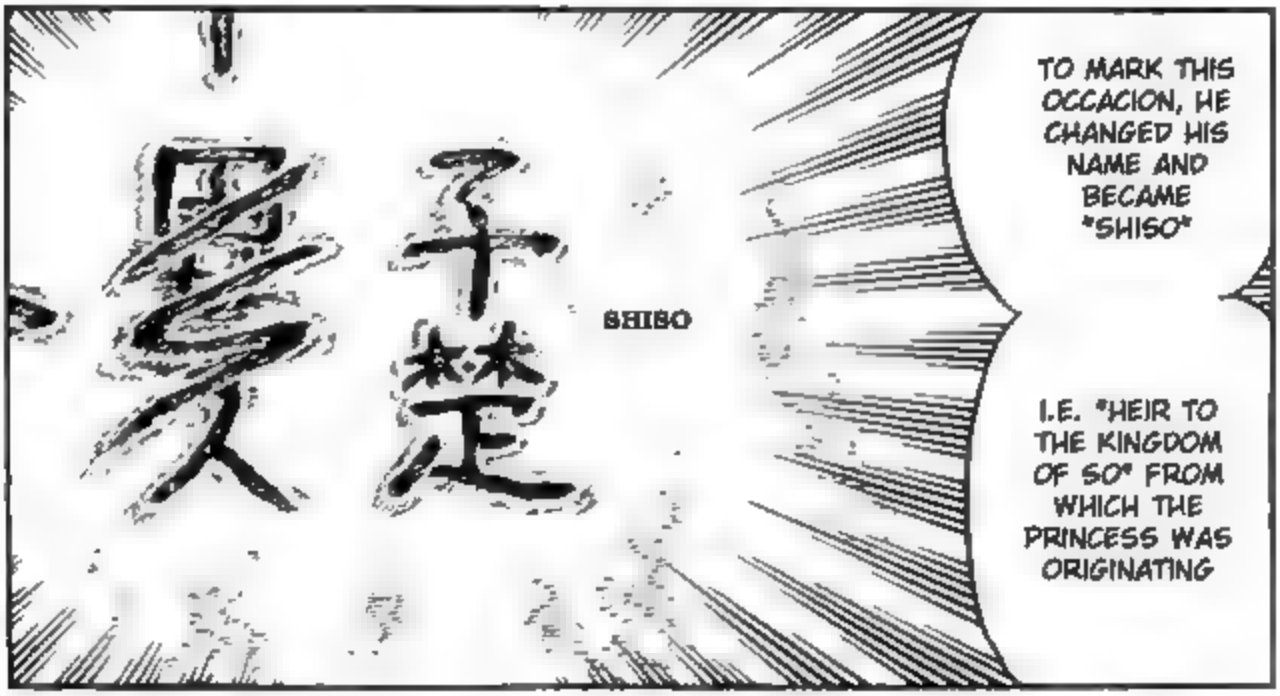
異人
IJIN
WHEN IJIN WOULD BECOME KING, RYOFUI HOPED TO BE ABLE TO LAY HIS HANDS ON THE TRADE OF IRON AND SALT, WHICH HE WOULD MONOPOLIZE


呂不韋
RYOFUI
IJIN AGREED TO RYOFUI'S REQUEST. PERHAPS HIS FUTURE WOULD CARRY A NEW LIFE FOR HIM. HE HAD TO TRY


HE WAS ONLY ABLE TO REACH THE PRINCESS THROUGH HER SISTER
RYOFUI LEFT TO MEET PRINCESS KAYOU, PACKED WITH GIFTS OF ALL KINDS

HE TELLS HER "THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT GOES "IF THE BEAUTY OF FLOWERS FADE, LOVE WILL FADE WITH THE FLOWERS." THE PRINCESS DID NOT GIVE THE PRINCE A CHILD, HER POSITION IS FRAGILE. SHE SHOULD NOW CHOOSE A HEIR, WHICH WOULD BE A SAFE WAY TO MAKE SURE SHE WILL KEEP HER POSITION. PLEASE FORWARD THE HUMBLE PROPOSAL THAT I'M OFFERING TO HER, TO CHOOSE THE VERY HONEST AND VERY WISE KIN TO BE THE HEIR."

LADY KAYOU
華陽夫人
LORD ANKOKU
安国君
PRINCESS KA
夏姫
IJIN
丁異人
DZZ
RYOFUI'S PLAN SUCCEEDS!
IJIN BECAME THE FUTURE HEIR TO THE CROWN

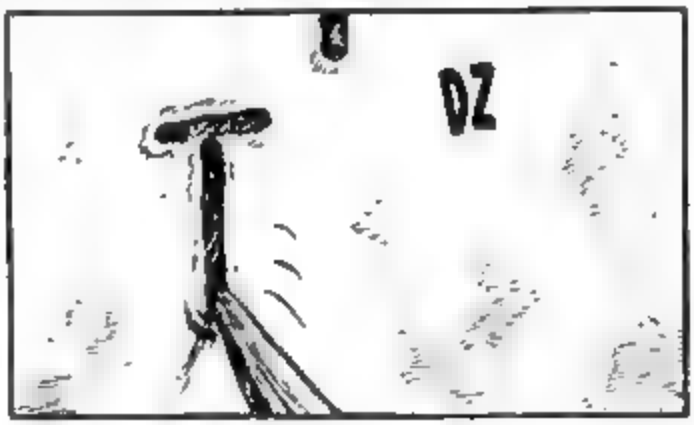

SHISO
子楚
TO MARK THIS OCCACION, HE CHANGED HIS NAME AND BECAME "SHISO"
I.E. "HEIR TO THE KINGDOM OF SO" FROM WHICH THE PRINCESS WAS ORIGINATING

AS OF HIS RETURN TO SEI, RYOFUI ORGANIZED A FESTIVAL IN THE HONOR OF SHISO. DURING THE FESTIVAL SHISO NOTICED A PRETTY DANCER WITH A LUSCIOUS BODY

HER NAME WAS MAI, SHE WAS THE MISTRESS OF RYOFUI, WHO DIDN'T PREVENT SHISO FROM FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER
RYOFUI STILL WANTED HER AS A MISTRESS, BUT DIDN'T WANT TO RISK HIS BUSINESS
HE DID NOT WANT TO LOSE HIS PROFITS AND HIS WAY OF LIFE. HE THUS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE UP HIS MISTRESS

SHISO
DZZ
PRINCESS MAI
LIKE THE CHERRY ON A CAKE, PRINCESS MAI GAVE BIRTH TO A FINE YOUNG MAN!

DZZ


DZ

IT IS HE WHO, TODAY, WANTS TO EXTEND HIS RULE TO ALL SIX KINGDOMS. ZENDOU, KING OF SHIN!
ZENDOU
I FEAR THAT THIS FOOLISH OLD MAN'S HISTORY IS NOT VERY INTERESTING
DON'T WORRY, PLEASE CONTINUE!

BUT HOW COME YOU KNOW ALL OF THESE DETAILS?
HAH
IN REALITY, THE BIRTH OF ZENDOU CONCEALS A MYSTERY!
THIS IS THE TRUE REASON AS TO WHY ZENDOU WANTS TO CONQUER TCHO!
ZENDOU

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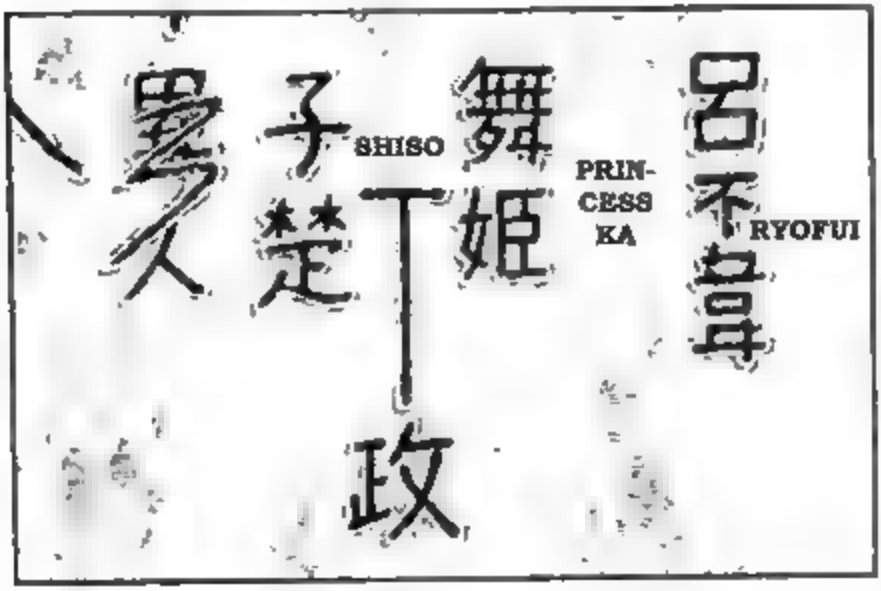
CHAPTER 08

A MYSTERIOUS BIRTH

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON
THANKS NANASHI


呂不韋 RYOFUI
舞姫 PRIN-CESS KA
子楚 SHISO
政 ZENDOU
男人

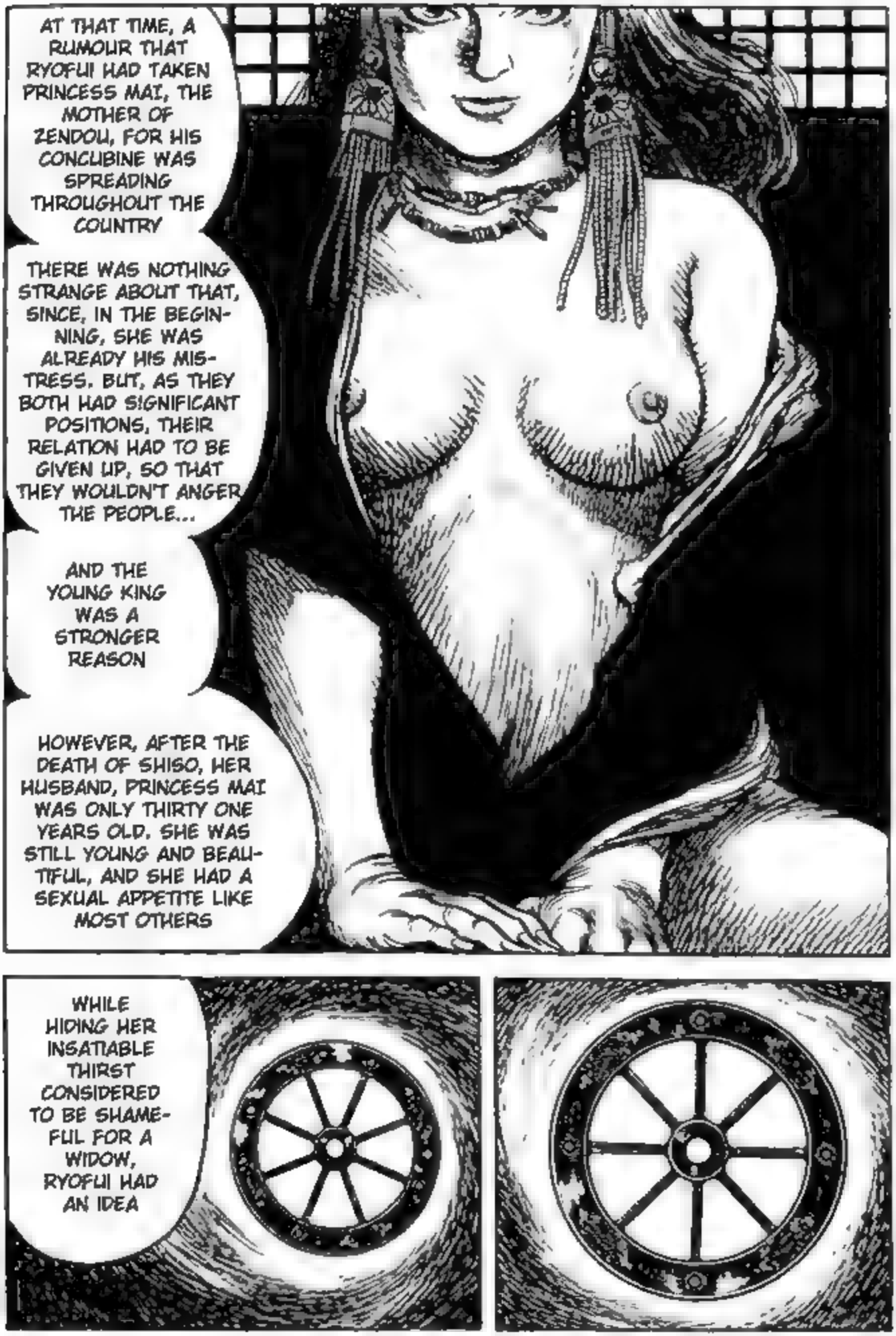
政
ZENDOU

SO, WHAT'S THE REAL REASON FOR ZENDOU TO INVADE TCHO?
THAT IS WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU
EX
ZENDOU LIVED THE FIRST NINE YEARS OF HIS LIFE HERE, IN SEI. IN SPITE OF HIM BEING A HOSTAGE, HIS LIFE BECAME EASIER THANKS TO THE ASSISTANCE OF RYOFUI
EX
HOWEVER, HIS MOTHER WAS NOTHING BUT A DANCER WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF GOOD IN HER
EX
AND JUST LIKE NOW, AT THE TIME, SHIN AND TCHO WERE TWO ENEMY KINGDOMS,
THE CHILD LIVED A PAINFUL LIFE

EACH DAY HE SUFFERED
.....
HE HAD NO ONE TO PLAY WITH... HE WAS ALWAYS SAD...
KING SHOU
昭王
ONE DAY KING SHOU DIED
昭王
昭王 KING SHOU
LORD ANKOKU BECAME HIS SUCCES-SOR, BUT...
安国君 LORD ANKOKU
華陽夫 LADY KAYOU
夏姫 PRIN-CESS KA

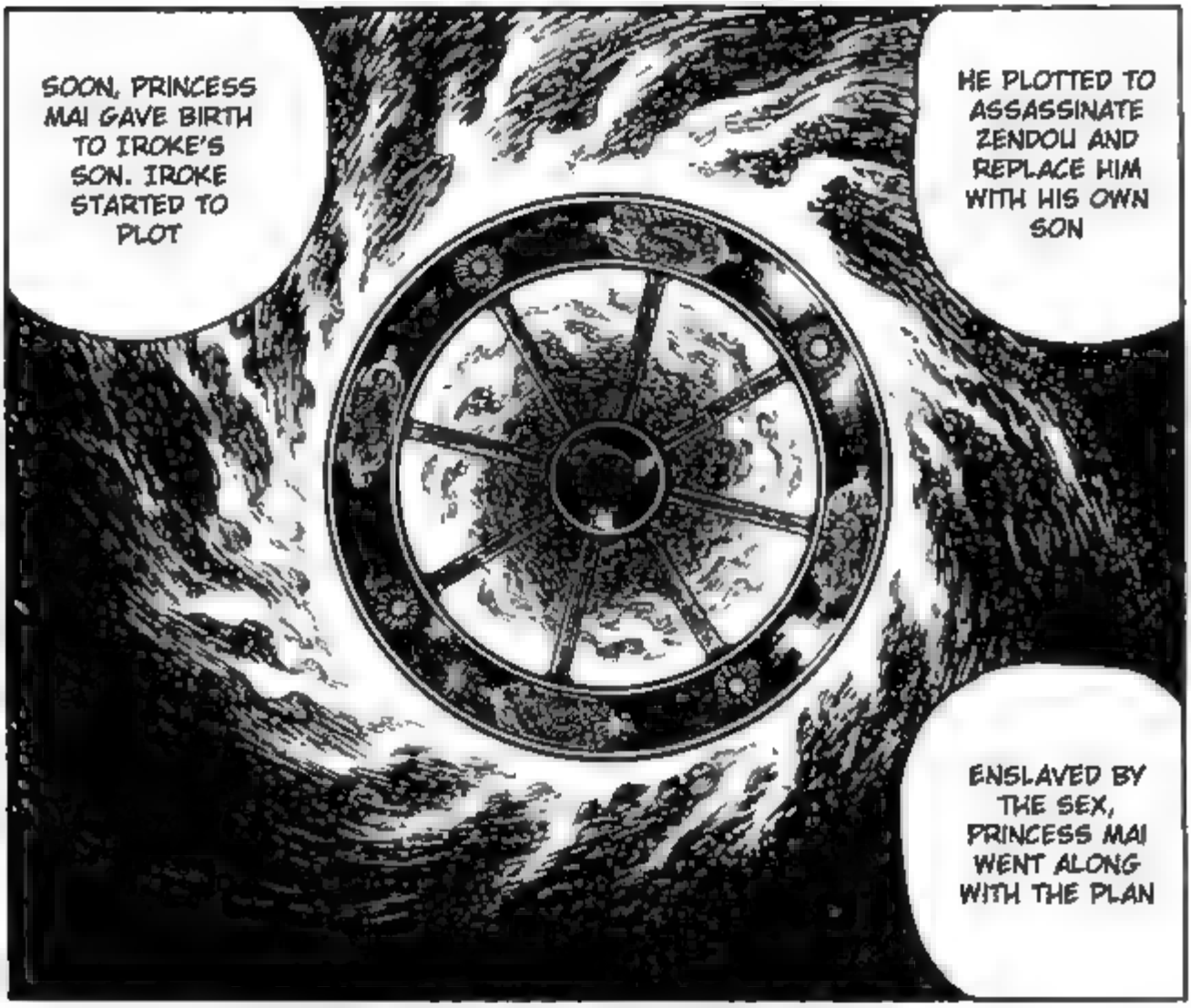
安国君
...THE REIGN OF KING SHOU HAD BEEN SO LONG THAT BY HIS DEATH,
HIS SON, LORD ANKOKU, WAS ALREADY VERY OLD. HE ONLY SURVIVED HIS FATHER BY THREE DAYS
ONLY THREE DAYS!!
子楚
SHISO
AS IT HAD BEEN DECIDED, SHISO IMMEDIATELY BECAME HIS SUCCESSOR
呂不韋
RYOFUI
IN THANK FOR HIS ASSIS-TANCE...
...RYOFUI WAS NAMED PRIME MINISTER
THANKS TO HIS "RARE BIRD" THE LITTLE TRADESMAN WHO HAD STARTED FROM NOTHING HAD REACHED ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP

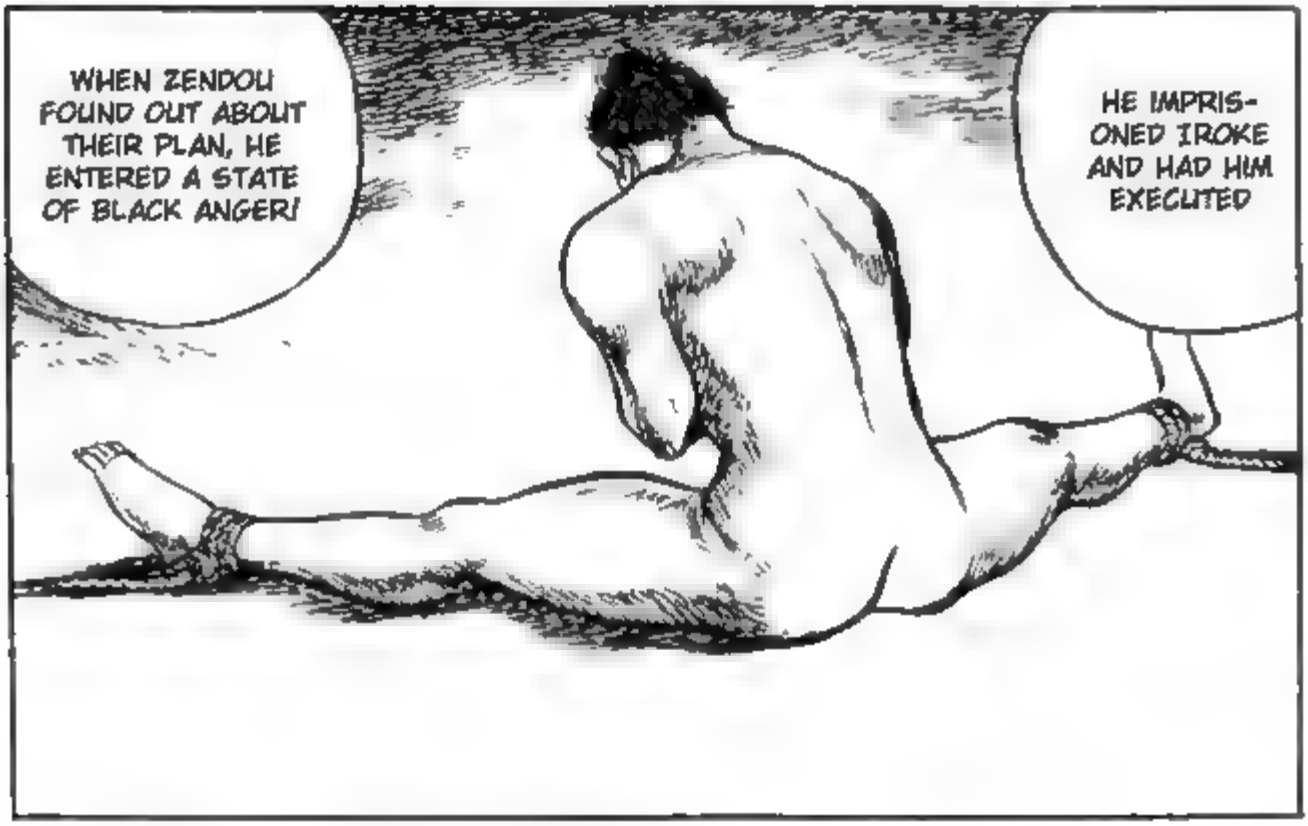
子楚
SHISO
BUT SHISO DID NOT RULE THE KINGDOM FOR LONG. HE DIED THREE YEARS LATER!
AND SO ZENDOU BECAME KING, HE WAS ONLY THIRTEEN YEARS OLD THEN
HE WAS STILL JUST A CHILD!
NATURALLY, HE DID NOT HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE AS A KING
SO RYOFUI TOOK THE TITLE OF "KEIFU", IN OTHER WORDS, A SUBSTITUTING FATHER.
HE NOW HAD MORE POWER THAN HE HAD AS A PRIME MINISTER, SINCE HE NOW HELD ALL POLITICAL POWER

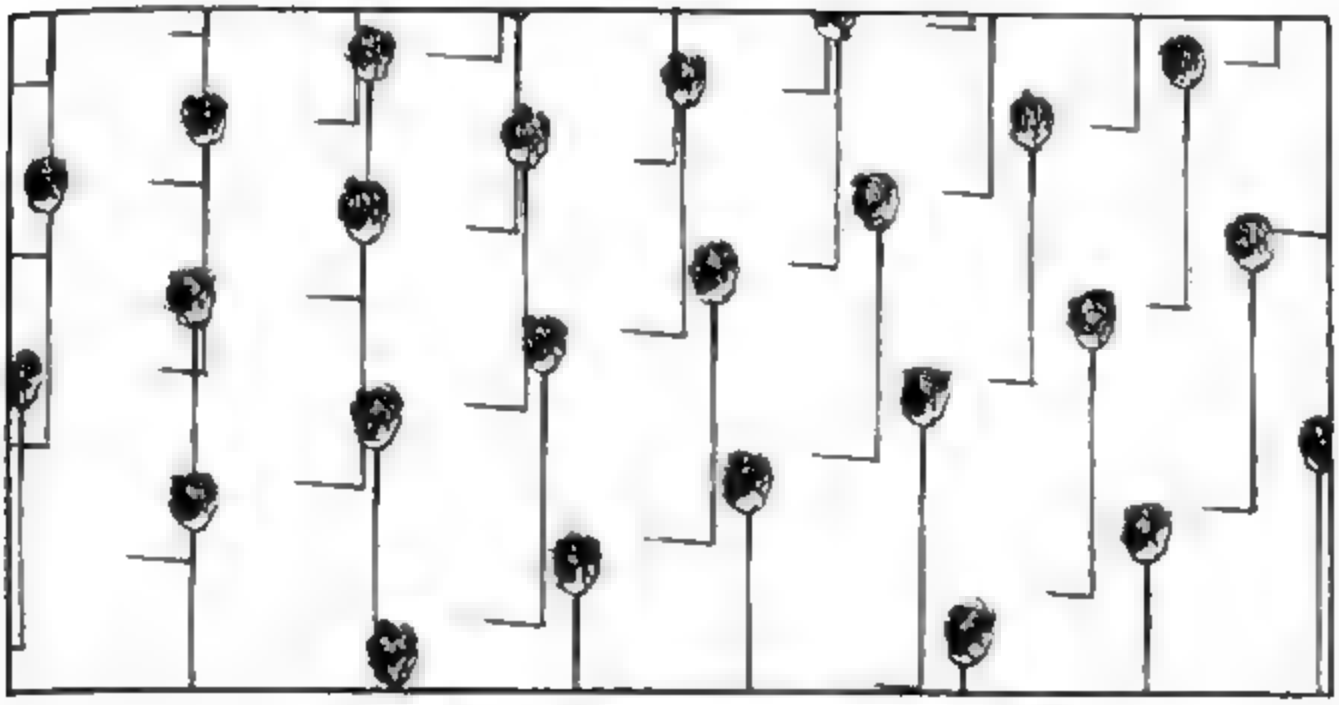

AT THAT TIME, A RUMOUR THAT RYOFUI HAD TAKEN PRINCESS MAI, THE MOTHER OF ZENDOU, FOR HIS CONCUBINE WAS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
THERE WAS NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT, SINCE, IN THE BEGINNING, SHE WAS ALREADY HIS MISTRESS. BUT, AS THEY BOTH HAD SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS, THEIR RELATION HAD TO BE GIVEN UP, SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T ANGER THE PEOPLE...
AND THE YOUNG KING WAS A STRONGER REASON
HOWEVER, AFTER THE DEATH OF SHISO, HER HUSBAND, PRINCESS MAI WAS ONLY THIRTY ONE YEARS OLD. SHE WAS STILL YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, AND SHE HAD A SEXUAL APPETITE LIKE MOST OTHERS
WHILE HIDING HER INSATIABLE THIRST CONSIDERED TO BE SHAMEFUL FOR A WIDOW, RYOFUI HAD AN IDEA

HE SENT HER A MAN CALLED "IROKE" TO HER, A MAN EQUIPPED WITH AN ENORMOUS PENIS
PRINCESS MAI WAS COMPLETELY SUBDUED BY IROKE
THIS MALE HAD A PENIS BIG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A WOODEN WHEEL!

COULD ZENDOU REALLY BE UNAWARE OF ALL OF THIS?
THE RUMOURS CIRCULATED, HE KNEW EVERYTHING
HE WAS SURELY AWARE OF THE RELATION BETWEEN HIS MOTHER AND RYOFUI, AND WITH IROKE
FOR THE CHILD WHO HE WAS, IT WAS A CRUEL REALITY


SOON, PRINCESS MAI GAVE BIRTH TO IROKE'S SON. IROKE STARTED TO PLOT
HE PLOTTED TO ASSASSINATE ZENDOU AND REPLACE HIM WITH HIS OWN SON
ENSLAVED BY THE SEX, PRINCESS MAI WENT ALONG WITH THE PLAN

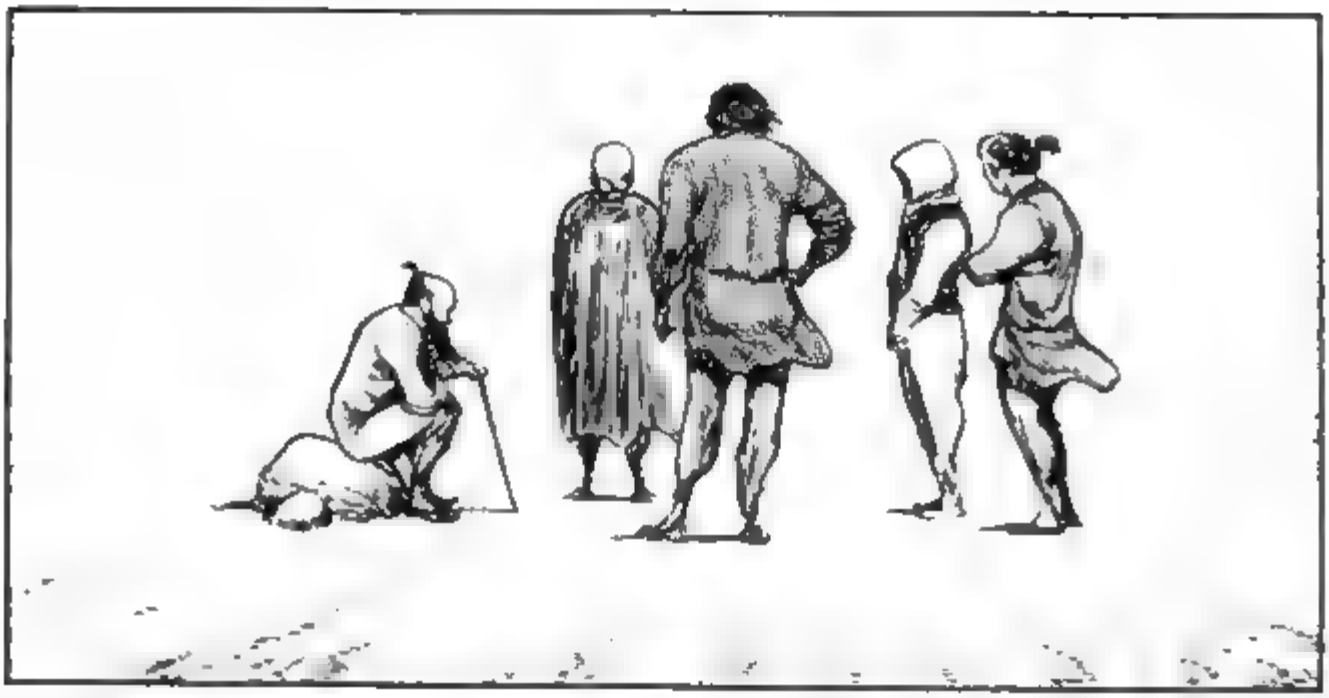

WHEN ZENDOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THEIR PLAN, HE ENTERED A STATE OF BLACK ANGER!
HE IMPRISONED IROKE AND HAD HIM EXECUTED



HE KILLED EVERYONE WHO HAD SUPPORTED IROKE..

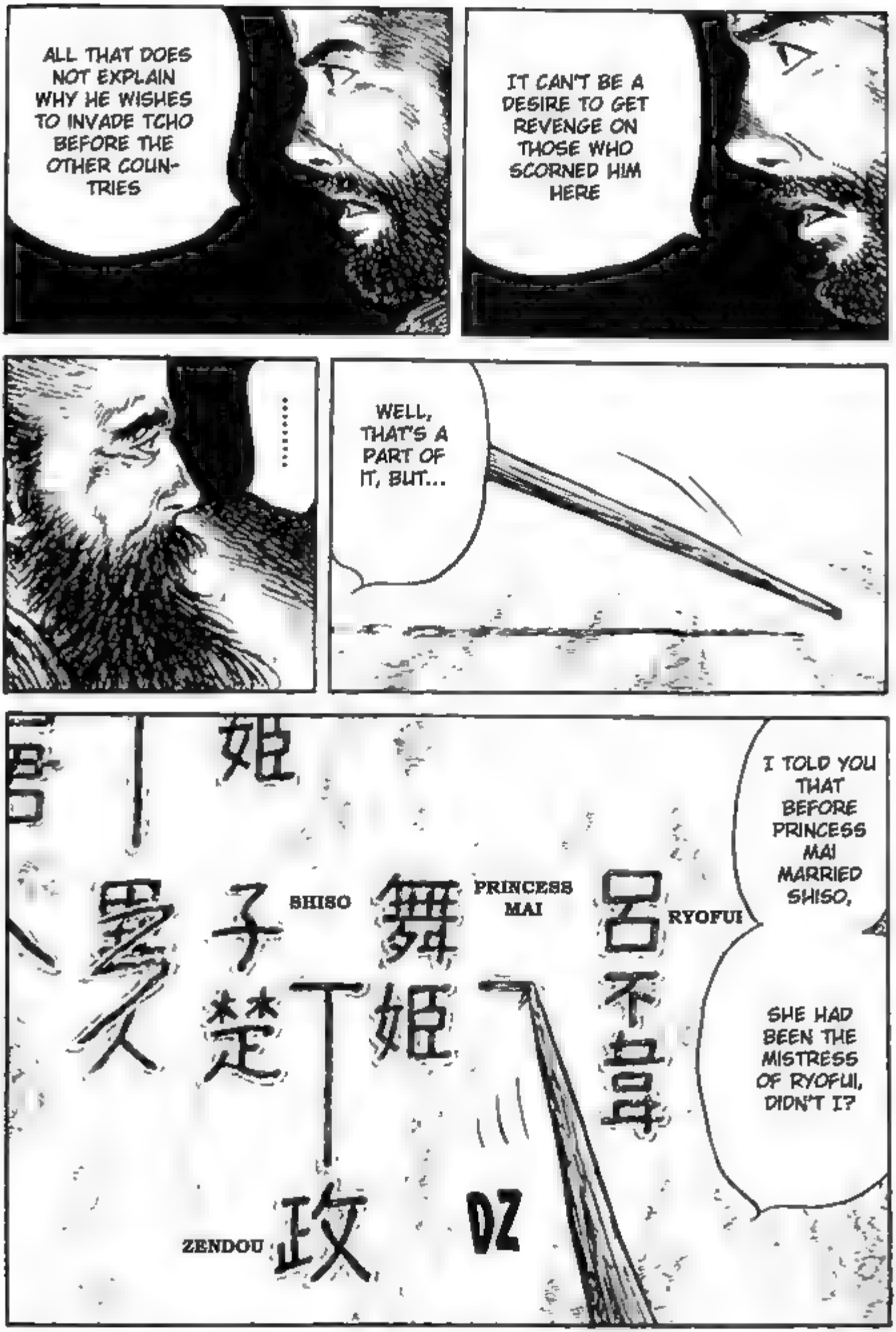
...AND HE IMPRISONED HIS OWN MOTHER

UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER, RYOFUI PREFERRED TO POISON HIMSELF
.....



FROM THE MISERY HE HAD ENDURED IN SEI TO THE LUXURY OF LIFE IN THE PALACE...
ZENDOU DISCOVERED THE TREASON OF HIS MOTHER AND RYOFUI. FOR THE CHILD HE WAS, IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK

SINCE THEN, HE HAS NEVER TRUSTED ANYONE, HE IS COLD TOWARDS EVERYONE, THE ADULT WHO HE IS TODAY WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME AS THE CHILD HE BECAME AT THAT TIME
HE WANTS TO BUILD AN IDEAL WORLD IN WHICH HE CAN BELIEVE
THE INSANE DREAM TO UNIFY CHINA IS NOT POSSIBLE, BECAUSE IT IS BUT A DREAM OF A CHILD


ALL THAT DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE WISHES TO INVADE TCHO BEFORE THE OTHER COUNTRIES
IT CAN'T BE A DESIRE TO GET REVENGE ON THOSE WHO SCORNED HIM HERE
.....
WELL, THAT'S A PART OF IT, BUT...
I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE PRINCESS MAI MARRIED SHISO,
SHE HAD BEEN THE MISTRESS OF RYOFUI, DIDN'T I?
SHISO
PRINCESS MAI
RYOFUI
ZENDOU
DZ

AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOUR IN THIS CITY STATES THAT
BEFORE THROWING PRINCESS MAI IN THE ARMS OF SHISO, RYOFUI HAD ALREADY GOT HER PREGNANT...
RYOFUI
呂不韋
PRINCESS MAI
舞姫
SHISO
嫪毐
ZENDOU
政
DZZ

IF HE TRULY IS THE SON OF RYOFUI, ZENDOU DOES NOT HAVE ONE DROP OF ROYAL BLOOD IN HIS VEINS
AND SO
THAT MEANS ...
...THAT THE MAN WHO BECAME KING OF SHIN IS NOTHING BUT THE SON OF A TRADESMAN!
ZENDOU
HERE, IN SEI, MANY PEOPLE SAY THAT HE IS JUST THE SON OF A TRADESMAN AND A DANCER,
ZENDOU WANTS TO DESTROY SEI TO KILL OFF THIS RUMOUR
.....

BUT YOU, WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
I NEED TO KNOW
?

.....
OLD MAN, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO TELL US, YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
IT IS JUST THAT... PRINCESS MAI IS MY DAUGH-TER!
AND THAT HAS DONE ME NO GOOD!
NOW, HE IS ON THE POINT OF SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE, PAINTING IT RED WITH BLOOD LIKE NEVER BEFORE! AND THAT HURTS DEEP INSIDE!
IN FACT, I DON'T KNOW WHO'S THE TRUE FATHER OF ZENDOU...
ALL I KNOW IS THAT ZENDOU IS THE SON OF MY DAUGH-TER, AND THAT HE IS THUS MY GRANDSON!
PRIN-CESS MAI
舞姫
ZHENG
政

KAKURI YOU WHO'VE BEEN HARDENED BY THE MANY BATTLES YOU'VE WITNESSED. NOW I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ANSWER MY QUESTION
WILL SEI WIN OR LOSE?
HOW MANY WILL BE WOUNDED? HOW MANY WILL DIE?
WILL THIS WAR HAVE AN END?
WHAT WILL OUR FATE BE?
WHAT GOOD WOULD KAKURI'S EXPERIENCE BE...
ALL HE COULD HAVE SAID, WAS THAT THE COMING WAR WAS GOING TO BE TOUGHER THAN ALL THOSE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FACED!

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CHAPTER 10
THE OATH TO THE GROUND

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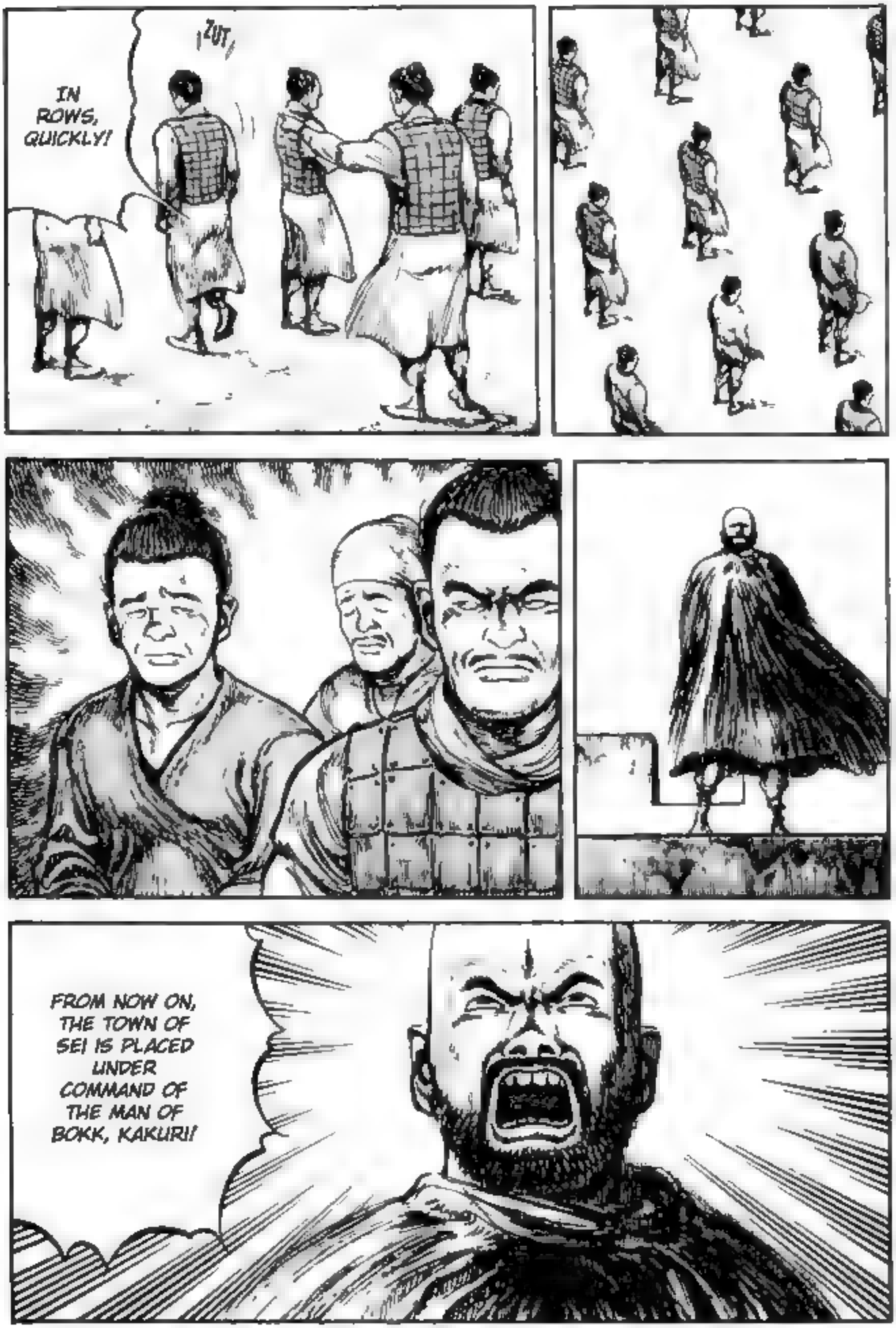
TELL ME, WHAT KIND OF GATHERING IS THIS?
PSCH
YOU KNOW, KAKURI, THE MAN OF BOKK... HE'S GOING TO HOLD A SPEECH!
A MAN OF BOKK, WE DON'T NEED TO HERE HIM SPEAK
AND GENERAL SHANU, HE'S PATHETIC
TO ASK FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF A MAN OF BOKK. IT'S RIDICULOUS!

HUH!?
ARE YOU ATTEND-ING TOO?
YES, ALL THE PEASANTS MUST COME!
WE MUST GATHER BESIDE THE SOLDIERS!
WHAT?!? TO HAVE THE PEAS-ANTS STAND NEXT TO US?

PITY!!
HERE'S KAKURI!
FORMA-TION COLUMNS OF ONE!
TA
TA
TA
TA
NIMAE
YUNJI
KOBU
KA-KURI
GENERAL SHANU


IN ROWS, QUICKLY!
ZUT
FROM NOW ON, THE TOWN OF SEI IS PLACED UNDER COMMAND OF THE MAN OF BOKK, KAKURI!

THE SOLDIERS, OF COURSE, BUT ALSO THE WHOLE POPULATION, FROM THE NOBLES TO PEASANTS. ALL MUST OBEY MY ORDERS!
ZAHA
WAYA
THE COMING WAR WILL BE OF UTTER IMPORTANCE, IT EVEN CONCERNS THE EXISTENCE OF THIS COUNTRY!
SOON, SHIN'S ARMY WILL CROSS THE BORDER AND THEY WILL GATHER THEIR FORCES AROUND SEI

FOR NOW, THE BORDER IS YET TO BE BREACHED. LET US BENEFIT FROM THIS DELAY AND USE OUR TIME TO REPAIR THE FORTIFICATIONS OF THE CITY.
YOUNG AND OLD, MEN AND WOMEN, EVERYONE WILL HELP!
THEN, WHEN THE ENEMY APPROACHES, EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO ARM THEMSELVES AND PARTICIPATE IN COMBAT!
HUH? WE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT TOO?
BUT WE'RE ONLY PEAS-ANTS!!
I WILL TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY
NO MATTER WHAT CASTE YOU BELONG TO!

AN INTELLIGENT AND COURAGEOUS PEASANT WILL BE ABLE TO RISE IN RANK AND BECOME COMMAND OTHER SOLDIERS!
WHAT !?
HE'S MAKING FUN OF US!
THE WORD OF A PEASANT HAS NO VALUE!
SILENCE !!

.....
ZENDOU, KING OF SHIN, DECIDED TO CONQUER THE SIX KINGDOMS. HE HAS ALREADY SEIZED THE KINGDOM OF KAN!
.....
.....
HE MADE SLAVES OF ALL HEALTHY MEN, MASSACRED THE CHILDREN AND THE OLD MEN
ALL THE WOMEN WERE RAPED! THAT IS THE ONLY FATE OF A CONQUERED COUNTRY!

HERE'S MY FRIEND KOBU. HE WAS BUT A PEACEFUL PEASANT OF KAN. I HAVE SEEN IT ALL WITH MY OWN EYES I TELL YOU!

EH ?
HII !
TSS

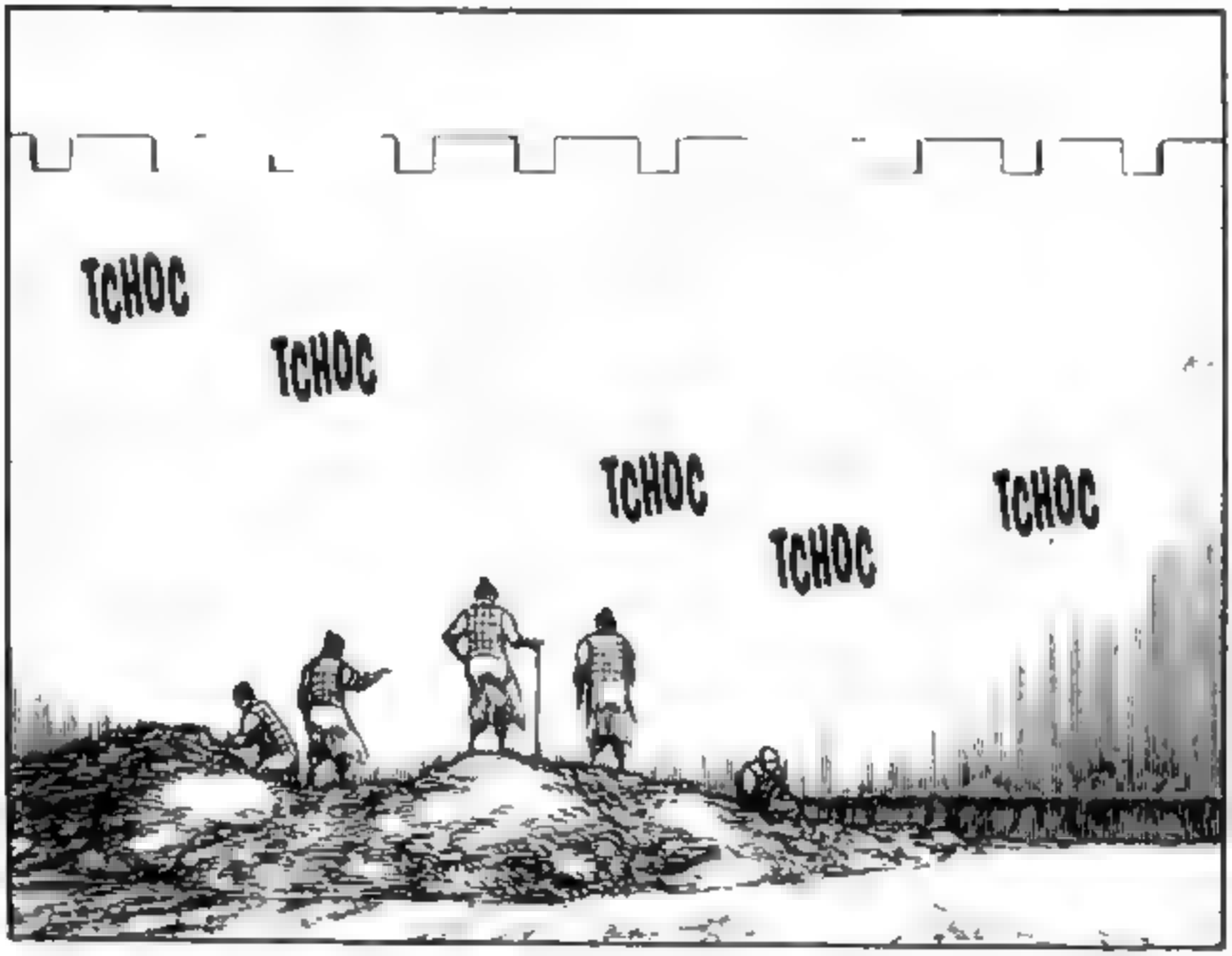
PLOC
DZ
UNTIL MY LAST BREATH, I SWEAR TO DEFEND THIS GROUND THAT HAS RECEIVED MY BLOOD!

THE ART OF STRATEGY THAT I LEARNED FROM THE BOKK CLAN WILL HELP ME TO DEFEND THIS CITY AS I'VE ALREADY DEFENDED MANY OTHERS!
WHY LET OURSELVES BE RUN OVER BY CRUEL AGGRESSION, WHEN WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES?

GENERAL, IT IS NECESSARY TO ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY IN SQUARES OF ONE HUNDRED SUBDIVIDED IN TEN ROWS OF TEN PEOPLE. I ENTRUST THIS TASK TO YOU!
FOR THE WALLS, IT IS NECESSARY TO DIG A DITCH, I NEED FIVE HUNDRED PAIRS OF ARMS DEDICATED TO THIS WORK!
YOU'RE MAKING THE PEOPLE FEEL UNEASY, INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM THE WILL TO FIGHT!

I DO NOT KNOW WETHER TCHO WILL WIN OR LOSE THIS WAR ANYMORE, BUT...
IN THE NEAR FUTURE I CAN CLEARLY SEE THE FATE WHICH AWAITS YOU, KAKURI...

YOU WILL BE ASSASSI-NATED BY YOUR OWN SOLDIERS


TCHOC
TCHOC
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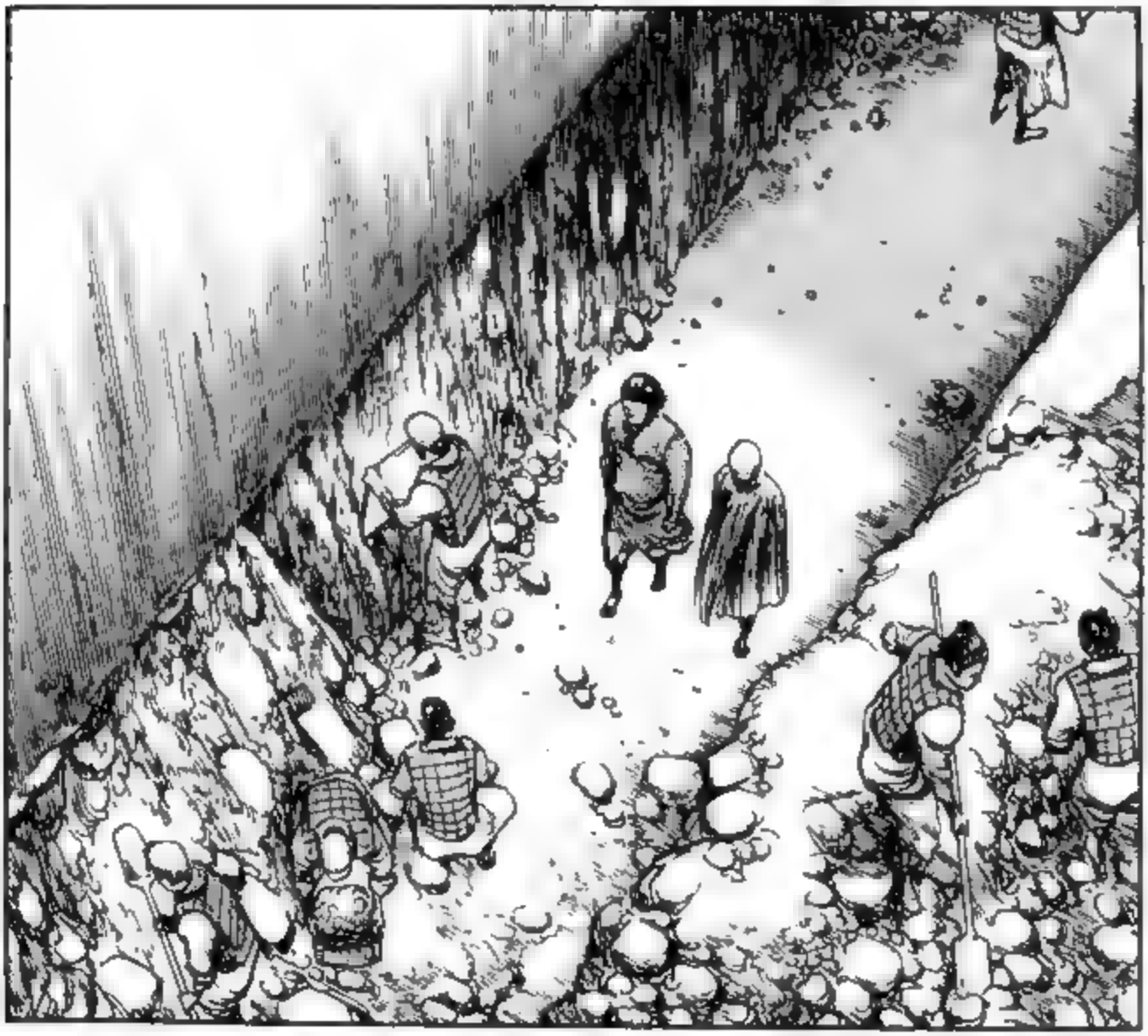
TCHOC
TCHOC

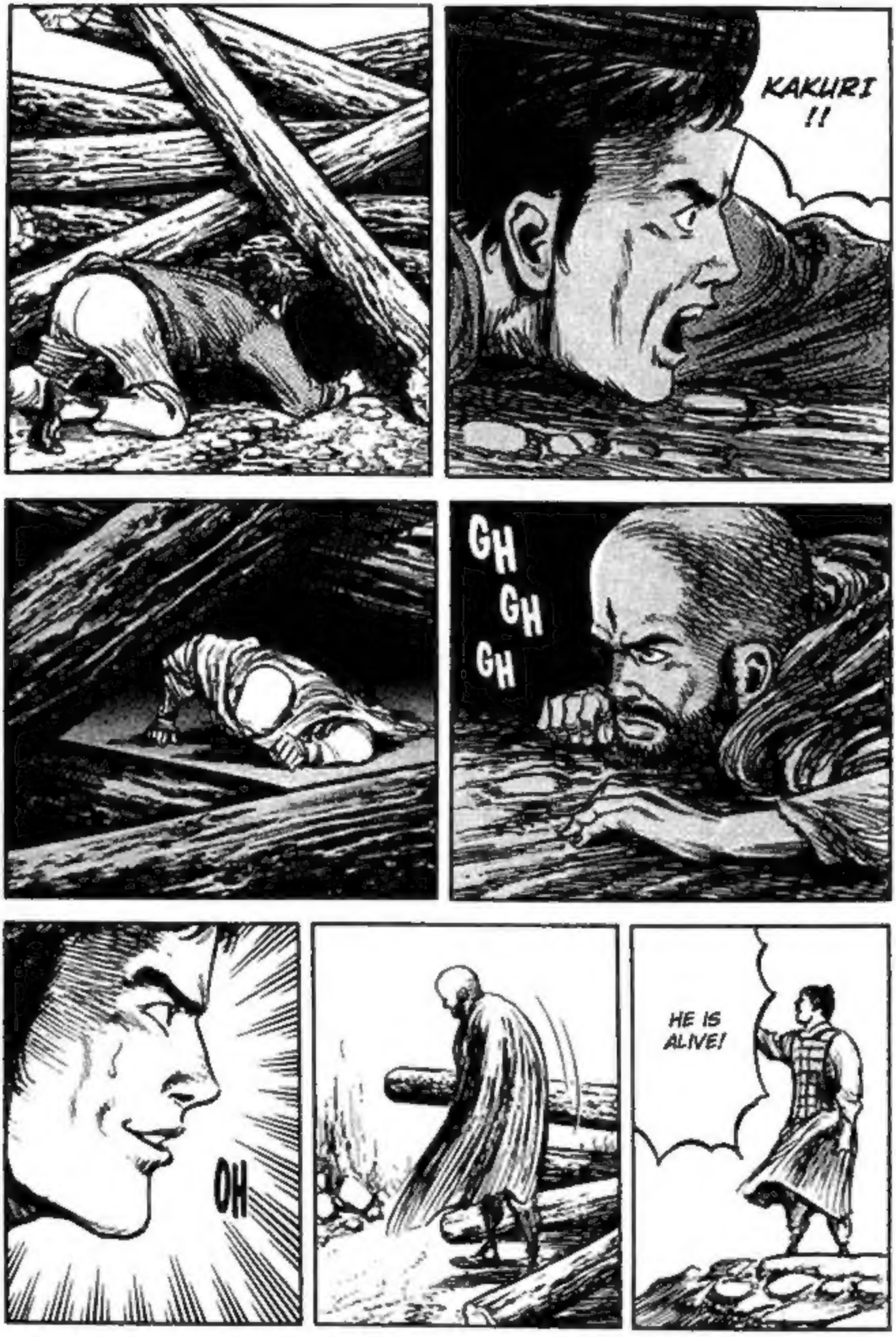


THE GENERAL IS RIGHT
ANY ONE OF THESE SOLDIERS CAN ATTACK YOU AT ANY TIME...

DURING THE NIGHT, YOU MUST BE CAU-TIOUS
DO YOU WANT KOBU AND I TO TAKE TURNS AND GUARD YOU?

DON'T WORRY, THESE ARE MY METHODS,
AND I DO NOT INTEND TO CHANGE THEM
IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL
FLAP
CLANG
TAP
!!

PATACLOP
KAKURI!
DZA
KAKURI!
HORRIBLE, THE LOGS FELL ON KAKURI!


KAKURI !!
GH GH GH
OH
HE IS ALIVE!

IT HAS BEEN CUT!
QUIET! DON'T SAY ANY-THING!
THE SOLDIERS CONTINUED TO WORK AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. HOWEVER, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ONE OF THEM HAD CUT THE CORD...

STRATÈGE VOL.8 / FIN